

DOJ bars Erap, Loi, Jinggoy from leaving RP

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Creation of cloned human embryos OKd

LONDON—The House of Lords on Monday approved a proposed change to government regulations that made Britain the first country to effectively legalize the creation of cloned human embryos.

The measure is aimed at allowing research on so-called stem cells—the unprogrammed master cells found in early stage embryos that

CREATION/A16

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BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 24, 2001

★ 56 PAGES 4 SECTIONS VOL.16 NO. 47 P15

Peso, stocks fall amid coup rumors

BY DORIS C. DUMLAO

LOCAL stocks yesterday fell back to earth with a thud, dropping nearly 3 percent, as investors took profits amid concerns ousted President Joseph Estrada might stage a comeback.

The peso also hit an intraday low of 50.10 to the US dollar, but closed at 49.20 as talk of a coup attempt by Estrada supporters swirled.

PESO/A16

FVR, 6 others named 'special envoys' to promote trade



FIDEL RAMOS
World Economic Forum



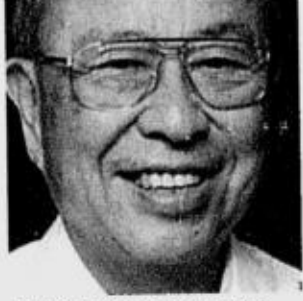
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BY DONA S. PAZZIBUGAN
AND DONNA S. CUETO

PRESIDENT Macapagal-Arroyo has appointed former President Fidel Ramos and six others as "special envoys" to "secure the support of our friends and allies" in the international community.

The special ambassadors are to promote trade and foreign investments in the country in the light of the renewed business and political

climate following the ouster of former President Joseph Estrada.

Ms Macapagal announced the appointments at yesterday's *vin d'honneur* with members of the diplomatic corps led by Archbishop Antonio Franco, the papal nuncio, who "blessed" the new administration and expressed support for her.

She named Ramos as her "personal and special representative" to the World Economic Forum based

FVR/A7

Erap bank assets frozen

BIR stops withdrawal at Citibank

BY AGNES E. DONATO,
CHRISTINE HERRERA
AND CLARISSA S. BATINO

PEOPLEpower won another battle when the Bureau of Internal Revenue (BIR) ordered yesterday the freezing of the accounts of ousted President Joseph Estrada and his wife with the Citibank NA-Virra Mall branch in Greenhills, San Juan.

The BIR order came as protesters blocked the entrance to the Citibank branch following reports that Estrada and members of his family were planning to withdraw \$3 million and P100 million from the bank.

"Pera ng mahihirap, huwag ibigay kay Erap (Don't give to Erap, the money of the poor)," shouted the protesters from groups including the Freedom from Debt Coalition (FDC) and the Anti-Trafo Movement as they picketed the bank.

Bystanders, shoppers and commuters spontaneously joined the picket.

But the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas (BSP) said Estrada's dollar deposits in Citibank or in any other bank could not be frozen even by a court order.

BSP legal counsel Juan de Zuñiga said Republic Act 6426, or the Foreign Currency Deposit Act, declares that dollar deposits "are of an absolutely confidential nature."

"Based on the law, no one can run after an FCDU account because

ERAP/A16

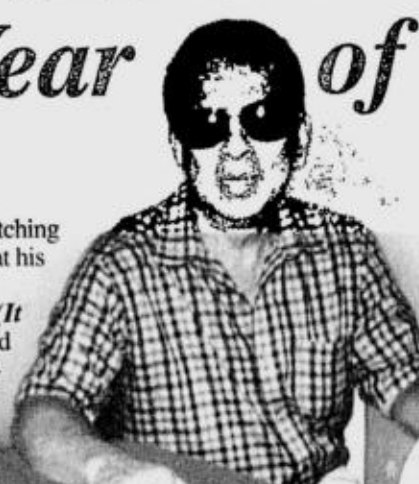
Man of the Year of the Snake

BY FRANK CIMATU
PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

VIGAN, Ilocos Sur—Gov. Luis "Chavit" Singson was clutching with both hands his pet Galema, a five-meter boa constrictor, at his residence that is widely known here as Baluarte.

"I'm a snake and the Year of the Snake is nearing (It starts today—Ed.) so I know I will come out the victor had the impeachment trial gone on," said Singson, whose damning revelations against his longtime buddy, former President Joseph Estrada, led to the latter's downfall last week.

CHAVIT/A15



SNAKE of the Year award for deposed President Estrada goes to Ilocos Sur Gov. Luis "Chavit" Singson who triggered the events leading to his downfall. Born in the Year of the Snake, Singson is back home in his Vigan residence named Baluarte with his favorite pet, a five-meter boa constrictor named Galema.

TOOTS SOBERANO

Gordon appointed tourism secretary

BY ARMAND N. NOCUM
AND JULIET L. JAVELLANA

THE CABINET of President Macapagal-Arroyo is nearing completion, with the appointment yesterday of former Subic Bay Metropolitan Authority Chair Richard Gordon as tourism secretary.

The President also named Dante Canlas as socioeconomic planning secretary and director general of the National Economic and Development Authority (Neda), and Corazon "Dinky" Juliano-Soliman, social welfare secretary.

Canlas, an economic professor at the University of the Philippines, served as Neda deputy director in 1992-98. Soliman is a convener of

GORDON/A7

Ex-military rebel named Isafp chief

BY CARLITO PABLO

IN 1970, a young military lieutenant jolted the Marcos regime when he staged a daring raid on the Philippine Military Academy army and joined the New People's Army. He subsequently rose to a senior position in the Communist Party of the Philippines.

Yesterday, Victor Corpus, now 56 and a full colonel, created an

EX-MILITARY/A7

DOJ bars Estrada from leaving RP

BY ROCKY NAZARENO
AND MICHAEL LIM UBAC

NEWLY appointed Justice Secretary Hernando Perez yesterday barred ousted President Joseph Estrada, former first lady Luisa Ejercito, their eldest son, San Juan Mayor Jinggoy Estrada, and 21 others from leaving the country.

In his first official act as justice secretary, Perez approved Ombudsman Aniano Desierto's request for the issuance of hold-departure orders to "ensure the availability of all the respondents for the purpose of the criminal investigations" planned in connection with complaints that they committed plunder, malversation, bribery, graft and

corruption and unlawful acquisition of wealth.

Perez said his office was also considering a freeze on all the assets of the former first family, including the possible sequestration of the so-called "Erap mansions."

"We are still studying which agency would have jurisdiction over this, whether it would be the De-

partment of Justice, Department of Finance or Bureau of Internal Revenue," he said.

Perez issued hold orders against all but three of 27 persons listed by the Ombudsman.

He excluded Senators John Osmeña and Teresa Aquino-Oreta, saying "they are incumbent sena-

DOJ/A5

Estrada: Deposits my savings since 1985

BY DONNA S. CUETO

OUTSTED President Joseph Estrada's deposits in an account with the Citibank NA-Virra Mall branch in Greenhills, San Juan, were not ill-gotten, but were part of his savings, according to a statement relayed by a former Malacañang official.

The source said Estrada opened the account in 1985 when the peso-dollar rate was still low.

The former Palace official, quoting Estrada, said the ousted President was willing to let the administration of President Macapagal-Arroyo examine bank documents on his accounts.

"The \$3 million has been there since 1985 when he was a mayor and movie actor. For a long time,

ESTRADA/A16

1ST MALE SPOUSE

'When she's down, I hug her, it's all she needs to feel good'

BY CARLA GOMEZ
PDI Visayas Bureau,
LEAH SALTERIO
AND ARMAND NOCUM

THEY call each other "amor" (Spanish for love), said the first male spouse of a Philippine president, lawyer Jose Miguel Arroyo.

But Juan Miguel "Mikey" Arroyo, the eldest of the first couple's three children, said his parents' term of endearment for each other is "dreamboat."

"She (Gloria) pulled a bad joke on me one time," the senior Arroyo said. "She called, 'Hey Dreamboat?' I was surprised so I answered, 'Yes?' Then she said, 'Not you, shipwreck!'"

Whenever his wife, the President, feels like she's been on a shipwreck, the 55-year-old "dreamboat" is there for her.

"Sometimes when she's down, I hug her. Many times, a hug is all she needs and she'll feel good later on," Arroyo told the INQUIRER in an interview in his Makati law office.

Like any couple, they argue. "We argue about politics and national issues, about our children, what movie should we see or where will we go."

But there are romantic evenings with his wife, Arroyo remarked, with red wine or champagne.

"It starts with a kiss and ends with a kiss," he said.

WHEN/A16



"DREAMBOAT" is there for the President.

VAL HANDUMON



Militant group declares war vs trapos, balimbing

BY CHRISTINE HERRERA

A NATIONWIDE movement against traditional politicians went out in the open yesterday and immediately declared the last-minute turncoats, or *balimbing* (carambola), and 11 pro-Estrada senators "politically dead."

The Anti-Trafo Movement, according

MILITANT/A5



Second FRONT PAGE

No coup, says Mercado

BY ARMAND NOCUM
JULIET JAVELLANA
AND CARLITO PABLO

OFFICIALS yesterday moved to reassure the public that no coup plot had been hatched against

President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo by supporters of her deposed predecessor Joseph Estrada.

"I'm confident enough to say there is no such threat to our society," Defense Secretary Orlando Mercado said in a radio interview, adding that some disgruntled officers may be spreading the coup rumors.

"The military establishment has gone back to the barracks. You won't see people with guns in uniform" on the streets, said Mercado.

Executive Secretary Renato de Villa echoed the assurance of Mercado, saying intelligence reports indicated no armed groups intent on a coup existed.

"We have instructed the chief of the national police to act on all reported information with respect to armed groups anywhere around the country, especially around Metro Manila," De Villa added. "If there are any, we are going to take them on under the law and see to it that those who are responsible for violating the law are arrested by the police."

Former President Fidel Ramos said the coup reports could have emanated from people close to Estrada.

"All of these 'cucurucucu' could be coming from Polk Street," he said, referring to the Estrada residence in San Juan.

Despite the assurance, the Armed Forces of the Philippines has placed on combat readiness a strike force to thwart any armed threat to reinstall Estrada.

The anti-coup force is composed of 5,500 officers and men based in Camp Aguinaldo. They are backed up by AFP special forces, tanks and armored vehicles whose numbers and exact deployment are kept secret.

Also yesterday, Senators Juan Ponce Enrile and Gregorio Honasan denied they were plotting a coup.

Enrile, however, admitted that on Sunday night, or the day after Ms Macapagal took her oath as president, he invited his former comrades in the military to a dinner in his house.

"My only mistake is that I did not invite the chief of staff and his three service commanders," Enrile said, referring to Armed Forces Chief of Staff Angelo Reyes and the commanding generals of the Army, Navy and Air Force whose withdrawal of support from Estrada paved the way for Ms Macapagal's assumption to the presidency.

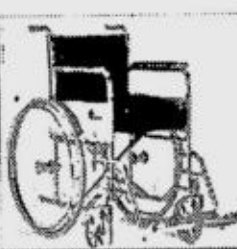
Enrile said he had dinner with Honasan, Rex Robles, Boy Turingan,

and Vic Erfe who were his former colleagues at the defense department.

In related news, Maj. Gen. Rodolfo Garcia, 5th Infantry Division commander, told the INQUIRER Monday night that reports that 500 Army soldiers from the 5th ID were on their way to Metro Manila to stage a coup attempt were "far-fetched and not true."

"The 5th Infantry Division, as I earlier assured, would fully support the orders from Gen. Angelo Reyes and our new commander-in-chief. Nothing else," Garcia said. With a report from Villamor Visaya Jr. and Estanislao Caldez, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau, and Tonette Orejas, PDI Central Luzon Desk

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2 senators hit Lee comment on Edsa 2

TWO administration senators yesterday deplored Singapore elder statesman Lee Kuan Yew's comments on the recent change of power in the Philippines, saying Lee had no right to pass judgment on the way President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo was installed into office.

"I think that the Filipino people have earned the praise of the entire world by the way it changed governments peacefully," Sen. Franklin Drilon said at the weekly Bulung Pulungan forum at the Westin Plaza hotel.

"I don't think Mr. Lee had the right to make such comments to Filipinos," said Drilon.

Sen. Loren Legarda-Leviste agreed, saying it was unacceptable for Lee to be passing judgment on the Philippine democratic system, "especially since he does not govern a

democratic government."

But she conceded it was Lee's prerogative to make such statements.

But Sen. Miriam Defensor-Santiago, identified with the Estrada bloc in the Senate, said Lee's statement that Ms Macapagal's presidency was unconstitutional only showed the need for the new government to promulgate a new Constitution in order to legitimize itself.

Santiago said Macapagal's succession climaxed by her oath-taking at the Edsa Shrine, was illegal under the present Constitution, which provides that the vice president can succeed to the presidency only in case of "death, permanent disability, removal from office or resignation of the President."

Lee said the removal of former President Joseph Estrada was done outside the Constitution and was "not a plus for the democratic system." Christine Avendaño

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Impeach court can't close yet

ON THE ADVICE of Chief Justice Hilario Davide Jr., Senate President Aquilino Pimentel Jr. will consult with other senators and House leaders on the reconvening of the impeachment court in order to formally close the impeachment trial of ousted President Joseph Estrada.

Pimentel and Davide met yesterday to talk about resuming the impeachment sessions.

The Senate President said the resumption would depend on arrangements to be made between the House and the Senate and on the agreed objectives of such a reopening.

"Very likely we will just take up the matter of winding up the affairs of the trial because we can't keep things hanging," Pimentel said.

Senate secretary Lutgardo Barbo said on Monday that Davide had wanted the impeachment court reconvened so the Chief Justice could rule on several pending matters, among them, contempt motions against Estrada's friend Jaime Dichaves, defense lawyers Sigfrid and Raymond Fortun, and prosecutors Raul Gonzalez and Clavel Asas-Martinez.

At the weekly Bulung Pulungan forum yesterday, Sen. Franklin Drilon said the impeachment court could not be reconvened until the House acts on the resignation of House prosecutors.

Sen. Loren Legarda-Leviste expressed concern over the controversial second envelope, which she said had been left unsealed at the Senate.

"Because if the second envelope was (left) open, then the contents would be questionable," she said.

Christine Avendaño

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Teachers want blood as Bro. Andrew leaves

BY BLANCHE S. RIVERA

PUBLIC school teachers yesterday pushed for the prosecution of resigned education chief Andrew Gonzalez and other former education officials for the P24-million car scam last year even as Sen. Raul Roco vowed not to touch the luxury cars when he takes over the graft-ridden Department of Education, Culture and Sports.

A leader of the Teachers and Employees against Corruption and Hypocrisy, one of the leading militant groups that ousted former President Joseph Estrada, asked Roco, who will officially head the DECS on Feb. 12, to support the teachers' quest for "justice before reconciliation."

Prof. Carol Almeda, Teach convenor and president of the Alliance of Concerned Teachers, said the new education chief, who is touted as a "man of honor and truth should understand" why the teachers continue to press for an immediate verdict against Gonzalez, four undersecretaries and four assistant secretaries.

In his farewell message to the DECS community, Gonzalez said one of his biggest regrets during his tenure was that he was "not knowledgeable" on the rules and regulations governing such funds, which paved the way for the purchase of luxury vehicles, including a Ford Expedition for him, an P800,000-carpet and 24 Radionet units.

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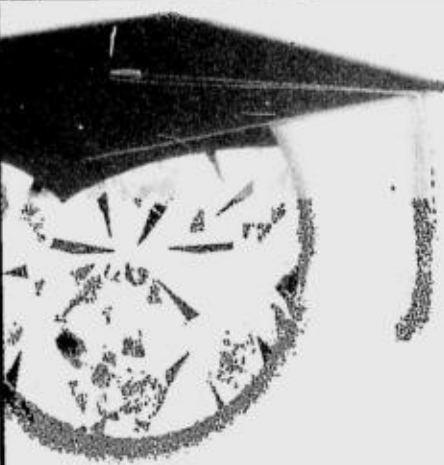
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A Time for Thanksgiving and Renewed Commitment



More swiftly than we even dared hope, our prayers were answered.

We thank God for looking graciously upon us and granting us a chance to begin anew.

We thank His Eminence, Jaime Cardinal Sin, for being once more our Pastor, for his call and guidance.

We thank Her Excellency, Former President Cory Aquino, for persistently leading us in prayer and for courageously calling us to action.

We thank KOMPIL II and all of civil society for leadership and guidance towards our victorious PEOPLE POWER II.

We thank the heroes and heroines of the Impeachment Process and Trial:

The women and men who first worked on an impeachment complaint in August 2000.

Former Speaker Manny Villar and the Members of the House of Representatives who signed the Articles of Impeachment.

The House Prosecution Panel:

Representatives Sergio Apostol, Joker Arroyo, Salacnib Baterina, Feliciano Belmonte, Raul Gonzales, Roan Libarios, Clavel Martinez, Oscar Moreno, Antonio Eduardo Nachura, Oscar Rodriguez, Wigberto Tañada; and the private prosecutors.

The courageous witnesses:

Gov. Luis "Chavit" Singson, Emilia Lim, Clarissa Ocampo, Edgardo Espiritu, Jose Luis Yulo, Ruben Almadro, Jr., Perfecto Yasay, Jr., and the many others who put their lives on the line.

Chief Justice Hilario Davide, Jr. and the 10 Senator-Judges:

Senate President Aquilino Pimentel, Jr., Senators Rodolfo Biazon, Renato Cayetano, Franklin Drilon, Juan Flavio, Teofisto Guingona, Loren Legarda Leviste, Ramon Magsaysay, Jr., Sergio Osmeña III, and Raul Roco.

We remember the victims of the December 30 bombings and vigorously condemn the perpetrators.

We thank the heroes and heroines of EDSA II — the youth above all — and the vigilant citizenry.

We thank the military under the leadership of AFP Chief of Staff General Angelo Reyes and the Philippine National Police for their unwavering loyalty to their oath to serve the people above all.

Under the leadership of our new President, Gloria Macapagal Arroyo, we now call on ourselves, our alumni and friends, to seize this new season of grace with gratitude and vigor.

We renew our earlier Call and Commitment:

We will continue to work more closely with the poor, with our institutions for social and structural reform, and with business and government, so that political reforms lead to services and opportunities for the poor.

We reiterate that the crisis in credibility, trust and moral ascendancy is not only in the Presidency and that we need to organize to assure that the May 2001 elections become truly an expression of our people's judgment on the performance of officials and candidates in this time of crisis. Thus we may lay stronger foundations for national renewal.

We have come out of this crisis purified and stronger. May our gratitude for this grace drive us now to the building of a nation that will truly be for all of our people — a nation that will live in the truth that has set us free.

Militant group declares war vs trapos, balimbing

(From page A1)

to convenors Fr. Ben Moraleda and Maitet Diokno-Pascual, was formed to warn President Macapagal-Arroyo that People Power II had rejected the trapos, or traditional politicians, who betrayed the public, and that the "nightmare" of a corrupt government should not be repeated.

The convenors said the ATM was launched to "fight against the traditional politics of the elite, against plunder, profligacy, patronage, abuse of power, corruption and the use of state power to promote and defend the interests of the rich and powerful, particularly the cronies."

It would also guard against the interests and designs of international big business and fight for democratic governance, they said.

The ATM, which counts cause-oriented and multi-sectoral groups

among its ranks, warned Ms Macapagal to immediately act on the public clamor for the arrest and prosecution of deposed President Joseph Estrada, his cronies and accomplices.

It also asked that their wealth be sequestered in favor of the public.

"President Macapagal should not wait for the citizenry to get fed up waiting for the government to act against Estrada," said Diokno-Pascual, who is president of the Freedom from Debt Coalition.

The ATM also demanded the immediate creation of a Special Commission composed of individuals with "unassailed integrity" to try Estrada and his accomplices.

"There can be no reconciliation without justice," Diokno-Pascual said.

Moraleda said the ATM would campaign against the trapos in the May elections.

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DOJ bars Erap from leaving RP

(From page A1)

tors and cannot be prevented from leaving the country, especially if they will represent the country in those trips," and Ilocos Sur Gov. Luis "Chavit" Singson, because "he is a material witness" in the complaints filed against the ousted president and 25 others.

"We are even studying whether or not to include (Singson) in the witness protection program," said Perez, who was among the private prosecutors at Estrada's impeachment trial.

Singson, a former member of Estrada's infamous "Midnight Cabinet," triggered the "Juetengate" scandal that signaled the beginning of the end of the Estrada administration.

Diokno et al.

The others barred from leaving the country are former Budget Secretary Benjamin Diokno; former presidential legislative liaison officer Jaime Policarpio; former Executive Secretary Ronaldo Zamora; Estrada's lawyer Eduardo Serapio; Estrada's brother-in-law Raul de Guzman.

University of the Philippines professors Danilo Reyes and Mila Reforma, directors of the Erap Muslim Youth Foundation; businessman-lawyer Manuel Zamora Jr.; former state gambling consultant Charlie "Atong" Ang; and Yolanda Ricaforte, Estrada's alleged auditor for jueteng collections.

They were implicated directly or indirectly in Estrada's alleged jueteng protection racket or the P200-million tobacco tax kickback that he allegedly received.

In his request to Perez, relayed in a three-page letter transmitted earlier in the day, Desierto said the hold orders were necessary "so as not to frustrate the ends of justice."

He noted that at least two of the respondents named in the complaints—Ang and Ricaforte—had earlier fled the country.

"The intent is evidently to frustrate the ends of justice, considering that the criminal charges against the respondents are very serious in nature and gravity, and the same involve enormous sums of money," Desierto said.

"Assistance is, therefore, earnestly and urgently requested from the DOJ, the Bureau of Immigration being an agency under it, to ensure the availability of all the respondents for the purpose of the criminal investigations," he added.

Ilocos Sur officials

The other subjects of hold orders were Ilocos Sur officials named in the alleged tobacco tax scam.

They are Vice Gov. Victor Savellano, provincial accountant Carolyn Pilar, provincial treasurer Antonio Gundran, general services officer Ernie Mendoza II and local officials Leonila Tadera, Estrella Mercurio, Dionisia Pizarro, Cornelio Almazan, Erlita Aroe, Maricar Paz and Marina Atendido.

Perez has transmitted the Ombudsman's list to Immigration Commissioner Rufus Rodriguez.

According to Perez, Ricaforte's passport can be canceled if she does not return to the country.

"If there is (such) a request, we will (do it). She is a Filipino citizen and we can revoke her passport," he said.

6 complaints

The Office of the Ombudsman is conducting a preliminary investigation of the respondents in connection with six complaints filed last November by private groups including the Volunteers Against Crime and Corruption and three lawyers' organizations.

Desierto said Monday that he had ordered the formation of a special panel to handle the investigation. He named Overall Deputy Ombudsman Margarito Gervacio as panel chair.

At this point, only the Ombudsman can initiate criminal proceedings against the ousted president with the Sandiganbayan.

The charges against Singson and the other Ilocos Sur officials were lodged by a former governor of the province and acting Director Carlos Caabay of the National Bureau of Investigation.

No authority

Desierto said in an interview yesterday that the Office of the Ombudsman had no authority to freeze Estrada's assets until after a case had been filed with the Sandiganbayan.

"The Ombudsman has the authority to examine bank accounts, but we don't have the authority to levy or freeze accounts at this point," he told the INQUIRER.

"But in the event that we find a prima facie case to indict the former president, we can apply for a writ of attachment before a court," he said.

Desierto said only the Bureau of Internal Revenue had the authority to issue a "levy on distraint," the legal term for a freeze order.

"Under the new BIR law on the confidentiality of income tax returns, the agency can issue a levy on all people facing tax evasion cases," he said.

He pointed out that the BIR could issue the levy even without first filing a case in court, "as long as there is prima facie evidence against the owner of the questioned assets."

According to Desierto, even the Presidential Commission on Good Government cannot move to have Estrada's assets frozen as its mandate covers only the ill-gotten wealth of the Marcos family and their cronies.

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Joe de V blocking bid to oust Fuentebella, say Lakas solons

DISGRUNTLED solons from Lakas-NUCD have accused former Speaker Jose de Venecia of intervening in the leadership crisis now looming before the House of Representatives.

They alleged that De Venecia is using his influence to keep his friendly ties with members of the new opposi-

tion and lay the ground for his comeback in the 12th congress.

De Venecia, they added, is apparently supporting the continued leadership of Speaker Arnulfo Fuentebella when they all have already gathered enough votes to replace him with a partymate in Lakas-NUCD.

The Lakas congressmen were already gearing for a showdown with Fuentebella supporters yesterday afternoon when they were informed before the session began that De Venecia wishes to have the Speaker remain in his post.

Lakas members want Fuentebella replaced followed by the ascent of party mate Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo to the presidency.

to the presidency.

The Lakas solons contended that Fuentebella had lost his mandate since he is a supporter of former President Estrada.

Lakas members are reportedly choosing from among ousted Speaker Manuel Villar, Minority Leader Feliciano Belmonte and Iloilo City Rep. Raul Gonzalez to replace Fuentebella.

Pro-Erap senators to keep key positions

SENATORS identified with ousted President Joseph Estrada want the "status quo" in the Senate leadership to stay as a condition for signing a resolution in support of President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo, a senator disclosed yesterday.

The anti-Estrada, now considered administration, senators have agreed that all committee heads and other Senate posts will not be touched.

But they want Sen. John Osmeña replaced by Sen. Franklin Drilon as chair of the finance committee.

The committee has yet to endorse the proposed 2001 budget measure,

which must be approved before the final adjournment of the 11th Congress on Feb. 8.

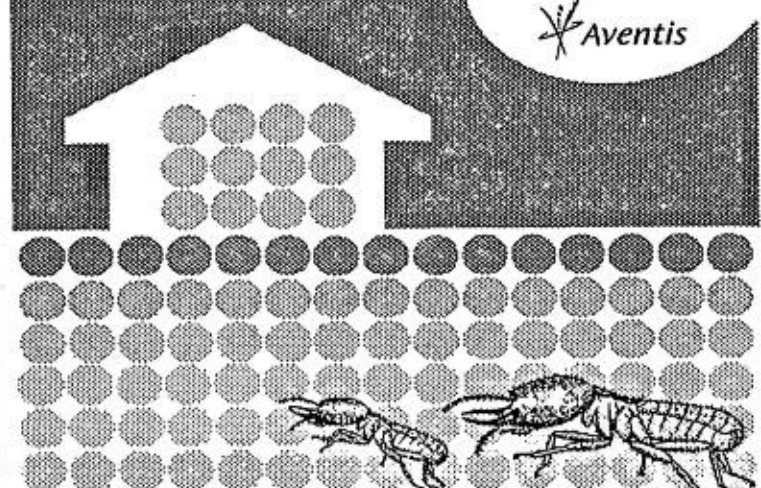
Appeals are being made to the 11 pro-Estrada senators, now in opposition, to sign the resolution, the source said.

Another senator confirmed the condition laid down by the 11, whose fateful vote against disclosing crucial evidence in Estrada's impeachment trial led to the collapse of the Estrada administration.

The source said Senators Francisco Tatad, Robert Jaworski and Ramon Revilla have already signed the resolution. *Juliet Labog-Javellana*

ERRATUM

The date of the Council Resolution extending the payment of business taxes, business permits and other regulatory fees for CY 2001 without penalty to February 5, 2001 at the City of Manila should be January 18, 2001.



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Uphill poll fight for Erap allies

BEFORE Joseph Estrada was ousted, his allies were trumpeting a 12-0 win in the senatorial elections in favor of the Lapiang ng Masang Pilipino coalition.

Now, Sen. Vicente Sotto III admits that it will be an "uphill battle" for the LAMP coalition.

"Whatever happens, when you are with the administration you are always on top. It might be an uphill battle for us, but I'm sure we will be able to come up with a respectable line-up," Sotto, a staunch ally of Estrada and one of the 11 senators who voted against a crucial evidence in Estrada's trial, said.

Just the same, Sotto said the LAMP coalition composed of the Laban ng Demokratikong Pilipino, Nationalist People's Coalition and the Partido ng Masang Pilipino would field a complete senatorial ticket for the elections in May.

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OPINION

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Vol. 16 No. 47
ISSN
0116-2642

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The PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER, INC. has its business and editorial offices at China Rocas Avenue (formerly Pasong Tamo) corner Yague and Mascarido Streets, Makati • P.O. Box 2353 Makati Central Post Office, 1263 Makati City, Philippines • Our new telephone numbers are 897-8808 connecting all departments; Editorial Fax 897-4793, 897-4794; Advertising 897-4807; Circulation 527-33-42, 527-33-48, 528-01-83, 528-01-85 and 528-02-13, Fax: 528-02-34.

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Shadow-boxing

THE HISTORY of People Power 2 has not been written yet and already former President Joseph Estrada is trying to revise it. Estrada on Monday sent out letters to the Senate and the House of Representatives informing them that since he could no longer exercise the powers and duties of the presidency, the Vice President would be acting as President "by operation of the law and the Constitution." The letter was dated Jan. 20, the same day Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo took her oath as President and Estrada left Malacañang, careful to avoid any mention that he had resigned. Although he had "strong and serious doubts about the legality and constitutionality" of Ms Macapagal's assumption of the presidency, Estrada said he was "stepping down...for the sake of peace."

Senate President Aquilino Pimentel said that with his letter, Estrada was laying the basis for challenging the constitutionality of the Macapagal presidency. The implication of the letter, Pimentel explained, is that Estrada was reserving the right to reclaim the presidency once he feels he is able to perform his duties.

Estrada's inability to govern, following the resignation of several members of the Cabinet and the withdrawal of support by the Armed Forces of the Philippine and the Philippine National Police, was precisely the reason cited by the Supreme Court for letting Chief Justice Hilario Davide Jr. administer the oath of office to Ms Macapagal, effectively recognizing her as the new President. Even Estrada's staunchest allies in the Senate are not about to support his pathetic attempt to reclaim power. Sen. Juan Ponce Enrile said the support of the military, police, Congress and the Supreme Court appeared to be "enough basis" for Ms Macapagal to exercise the powers of the presidency. Senate Majority Leader Francisco Tatad, referring to Estrada's letter, said "pieces of paper right now have no legal force" and urged the administration to disregard it. Only Sen. Miriam Defensor-Santiago questioned the legitimacy of Ms Macapagal's presidency.

Fr. Joaquin Bernas, S.J., a member of the Constitutional Commission that drafted the 1987 Constitution, has pointed out that the provision allowing a president to relinquish his post temporarily is intended "to deal with situations when the president, because of his physical or mental condition, might be temporarily unable to govern." This was not the case with Estrada, Bernas said. "His inability to govern was rather due to the fact that he had been stripped of power by the sovereign people supported by the military, the police and his Cabinet. The inability imposed on him was not temporary but permanent and irredeemable."

Surely Estrada cannot be so dense as to deny that he has lost the presidency irretrievably. So if he is making a claim to the presidency, probably it isn't because he still dreams of going back to Malacañang. Rather it's because he wants to keep the mantle of immunity the Constitution provides to the president of the republic. Without such immunity, Estrada faces serious criminal charges, including plunder which carries the penalty of death.

Whatever his intentions, it is a clear sign of desperation that Estrada continues to stake a claim to the presidency after all the branches and agencies of government have recognized the legitimacy of Ms Macapagal's administration. That quest is not going to bring him anywhere. The Supreme Court, which acted swiftly to forestall the possibility of a power vacuum, is expected to make short shrift of any challenge to the constitutionality of Ms Macapagal's assumption of the presidency. If this is Estrada's way of saying he is not going down without a fight, he should be told he looks as ridiculous and ineffectual as when he was shadow-boxing before a group of admiring Cabinet members.

Iraq's fault

IT was Saddam Hussein's army that invaded the small neighboring country Kuwait. It was this attempted annexation that led the UN-authorized force to initiate "Operation Desert Storm" 10 years ago.

The Iraqi conquest attempt was the reason for imposing economic sanctions. It is Hussein who can ensure an end to the civilian population's suffering, as soon as he allows UN weapons inspectors into the country. Baghdad is to blame.

Dagens Nyheter (Stockholm, Sweden)

Why are they still afraid to open that envelope?

WHAT is in that mysterious second envelope that even President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo does not want it opened anymore? I was surprised when she was shown on television saying, "What for (the opening of the envelope)? It's over."

Some of the anti-Erap senators who fought doggedly on the Senate floor to have it opened last Jan. 18, are not interested anymore. Even prosecutor Rep. Joker Arroyo, who had argued passionately for its opening, is no longer interested. It is as if that envelope contains not only the smoking gun against Erap but also deadly virus that would be released as if the envelope is a germ warfare bomb. Only Senate President Aquilino Pimentel is on record as wanting to see the envelope's contents.

Aren't the others curious about what is in that fateful envelope that caused the unseating of a President? Don't the people, who unseated the President, have a right to know? Is there something inside to be afraid of? Sen. Juan Flavio said it for millions of Filipinos on that fateful night: "I want to see what's inside."

The people wanted so much to see it that when the Dirty Eleven senators voted to keep it hidden, they became so angry they took to the streets and launched People Power 2 that booted Erap out of Malacañang. Now the senators will cheat the people again by keeping the envelope sealed. Why? Were the members of the Dirty Eleven so traumatized by it that they don't want to even come near it?

The impeachment court will reconvene today because Chief Justice Hilario Davide Jr. wants to "formally close" the trial. He doesn't want to leave it hanging. But leaving the envelope unopened would also leave the case hanging. *Bitin pa rin.*

Besides, the government would need its contents as evidence for the trial of the criminal charges filed, and still to be filed, against Erap.

DON'T these clowns ever learn?

I saw Rep. Didagen Dilangalen on TV, without a trace of mortification on his mug, saying he would file an impeachment charge against Chief Justice Hilario Davide Jr. for swearing in Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo as President. This was presumably unconstitutional because Erap had not yet vacated his post, not having tendered a written resignation letter yet. If I remember right, Dilangalen was the fellow who hastened the impeachment process against the President by mounting the first of a series of provocations on the public. He stopped Gov. Luis "Chavi" Singson from testifying in a congressional committee, an act that so incensed his colleagues in Congress their Speaker decided to take the lead in impeaching Erap.

Then I saw Sen. Miriam Defensor-Santiago on TV, without a halo of contrition hanging over her coiffure, saying she would challenge the legality of Macapagal's swearing-in on the same ground. The new President had apparently been in a rush to assume the presidency notwithstanding that the post was not—legally—up for grabs. If I remember right, Santiago was one of those who dug the grave for their boss by mounting one of the last provocations on the public, which drove them to the streets. She threw a tantrum in the Senate, terrorizing spectators, which gave her compatriots to glimpse how utterly insane Erap's rule had become.

Of course the dubious credit for mounting the very last and greatest provocation would go to Sen. Tessie Aquino-Oreta, who danced the dance of death in the Senate. There was something almost Old Testament about it, like Salome slithering on the floor to demand the head of John the Baptist. Except that Oreta was asking for the head of Juan de la Cruz. Ninoy Aquino shed his blood on the tarmac and sparked People Power 1. Oreta shed her inhibitions in the Senate and sparked People Power 2.

Why should Macapagal's assumption of the presidency lack legal or constitutional basis? The equation is simple, which even Rene Saguisag's convoluted reasoning may not change. While at that, whatever has happened to that fellow: Is he so lacking in attention he has to dance on his head to get it? The equation is not: The law will dictate the popular will. It is: The popular will will dictate the law.

I don't know what they teach in law school, but what they do teach in elementary school, which is obviously superior to it, is that the Constitution and the statute books are nothing but toilet paper unless

AS I SEE IT

Neal H. Cruz



But wouldn't it be ironic, funny or embarrassing, depending on which side of the fence you are, if the envelope is opened and the contents turn out to be, surprise, surprise, blank sheets of paper? Or paper with the images of Smiley or Mad comics' Alfred E. Neuman—with the balloon, "What, me worry?"—printed on them? Or a piece of paper with "HA HA HA HA" printed on it in large letters?

Ms Macapagal shouldn't worry about Erap's letter to the Senate saying that she, GMA, is just an "acting President" and that he, Erap, is only on a leave of absence—meaning he can end his leave of absence and return to Malacañang as President anytime. Neither should she worry about the less than definite ruling of the Supreme Court on her right to assume the presidency. The oath of office she took before Chief Justice Davide was for President, not for acting President. Erap himself, in his letter before he left Malacañang, said she had taken her oath "as President." The "leave of absence" thing was just an afterthought after he had talked to his lawyers. GMA is firmly in the saddle.

But she has to be careful. The horse she's riding on is skittish; it may buck and throw her off. That is another way of saying that People Power is double-edged. Today, it worked for her but tomorrow it can also work against her. If she does not do right by the people, they can dump her as fast as they

Back to normal?

THERE'S THE RUB

Conrado de Quiros



they express the dreams and aspirations, the hopes and desires of the people. The equation is not: If the popular will deviates from the law, the popular will should be changed. It is: If the law deviates from the popular will, the law must be changed.

But I don't know that the law has to be changed at all in this case. The presidency was vacant when Macapagal stepped into it. It was vacant not because Erap had resigned verbally or in writing—who the hell cares if he does or not?—but because the people had fired him. Take it from the placards the *obreros* were waving at the Edsa Shrine: "Erap, you're fired!" Call it a revolutionary act, call it whatever legal name you like, it amounts to the same thing. *Pagkahaba-haba man ng prosesyong, sa Edsa rin ang tuloy.*

People should know when they've become irrelevant and immaterial, and stop asking for more pain. A people's rage, like the exploding Mayon, can be just as terrifying as it is magnificent.

Asked what she would do first as President, while coming out of her house to board a van that would take her to her new residence, Macapagal said she would bring normalcy back to the country. The people, she said, had gone through eight months of turmoil and longed for a normal life. She would give it to them.

Well, true enough the last several months have been a time of turmoil and stress. But it was also a time of enlightenment and heroism. It was a time when the public's eyes were opened to the true shape and form of corruption in this country. Every Filipino knows corruption goes on in government, but until the impeachment trial last year, few truly saw the face of it—the participation and collusion of banks, lawyers, public officials, cronies and gangsters. And it was a time when the Filipino rose to put an end to wrongdoing in public office by the most earthshaking of acts, which was people power. No one may take the law into his hands—except

dumped Erap and Marcos.

She has to be careful about the people she appoints to her administration. Already, people are grumbling about the people around her. The same people, the same *kamaganaks* and cronies who were kicked out by the voters during the Aquino and Ramos administrations, are back, swaggering and arrogant, as though it is they, and not the people at Edsa, who made Ms Macapagal President.

I have no doubts about the sincerity of Ms Macapagal, as other presidents before her were sincere in their early days. But something usually happens to the presidents after a while, when they become too comfortable and heady with power. There are too many temptations, too many sycophants, too many *sipsips* and *bulong* brigades that blind and deafen a president that he or she soon loses the way and strays from the straight path.

Ms Macapagal should always remember the lesson of Erap. Don't be too accommodating to your perceived friends as he was. A real friend will never ask for anything that will put you in trouble.

JOKE of the day:

What happens now to the Dirty Eleven senators? What does the future hold for them? It looks like the appointments of Sen. Miriam Defensor-Santiago to the special international court of the United Nations, and of Sen. Francisco Tatad as ambassador to the UN or Washington, are no more. Sen. Robert Jaworski still owes P500 million. What now?

Well, it looks like it's *balik* "Eat Bulaga" for Tito Sotto, *balik* basketball for Jawo, *balik sine* for Revilla, and *balik* dirty dancing for Tessie Oreta.

Comments are welcome at asiseeit@ pacific.net.ph

the people. That is where the law comes from.

And so I do not know what Macapagal means when she says she wants to bring back normal times to the Filipino. That vow can only sound good to the ears of some businessmen. I say "some" because I saw Ramon del Rosario pushing his way through the mammoth crowd at Edsa, inching his way through the tangle of bodies, flushed with exertion and exultation, a ripple in the ocean of humanity there. I cannot imagine such experiences being so easily forgotten. I cannot imagine all the businessmen who stood side by side with the *busabos* of the earth, feeling their sweat and smelling their anger, coming away from there without being struck by grace.

I cannot see how anyone who was there at Edsa last week would long for normal times if by that is meant the times Cory brought back to us after Edsa 1, if by that is meant the return of the *trapos* and the *balimbings* that now flock like vultures in Malacañang, if by that is meant that we should forget the lessons we have just learned from a mighty struggle. I cannot see how anyone who was there at Edsa would long for normal times if by that is meant that the *masa* would go back to being ignored or made to wait in line while government makes business the beginning and end of economic recovery, if by that is meant that the crooks and murderers would go unpunished, if by that is meant we should relinquish all decision and judgment to government and go back to a life of apathy and indifference.

I can only see how we would want to continue to live in abnormal, or extraordinary, times. I can only see how we would want to vow never to allow abnormal pillage to come back so soon after we have expelled a tyrant. I can only see how we would want to continue the monumental education of the public in civics and politics, in law and history, in morality and justice, that began with the impeachment trial and ended with People Power 2. I can only see how we would want to realize the true essence of People Power, which is drawing the masses into the bosom of national affairs, which is giving the poor a voice in national policy, which is, in its truest and deepest sense, giving power to the people.

Gloria Macapagal's *lipat* from her house to Malacañang does not mark the end of struggle. It only marks the beginning of one.

Comments are welcome at dequiros@vasia.com

Legal tricksters at work anew

EVEN before President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo could warm her seat, deposed President Joseph Estrada has launched a campaign to destabilize the new administration by inventing the legal fiction that he is only temporarily incapacitated from the presidency and that he designated Ms Macapagal as "acting" President.

The letter was dated Jan. 20, the day Ms Macapagal was sworn in by Chief Justice Hilario Davide Jr., and arrived in the Senate last Monday. It said that, "By virtue of provisions of Section 11, Article VII of the Constitution, I am hereby transmitting this declaration that I am unable to exercise the powers and duties of my office. By the operation of the law and the Constitution, the Vice President shall be acting President."

The letter serves two purposes. The first is that it throws legal doubt on the legitimacy of the new administration; and, the second is that it lays the ground to claim immunity from prosecution based on the reasoning that he still has title to the presidency because he has not resigned. The second is a defensive measure against the action by the new administration to press criminal charges of graft and corruption. Already the Office of the Ombudsman has started the criminal proceedings on charges of graft and corruption and plunder filed with it.

Estrada's claim that he is still President who has temporarily been sidelined by the People Power upheaval is preposterous and flies in the face of reality.

More ridiculous is his designation of Ms Macapagal as "acting President." Ms Macapagal does not owe her accession to the presidency to Estrada. She owes it to the sovereign people who deposed Estrada after they had decided that he was not only guilty of the impeachment charges but also unfit to govern. When the letter was issued, power had already slipped from his hands. It came after the withdrawal last Friday of the support of the Armed Forces and the police, and the mass defection of Cabinet members. The government had collapsed, and Estrada was in no position to issue orders, much less declare himself "unable to exercise" the powers of the presidency. People Power stripped him of his powers.

ANALYSIS

Amando Doronila



Estrada is fantasizing in his surreal world. He has yet to come to terms with the fact that he has been thrown out of office. And he is quibbling over the word "resign" and "stepping down" in what is plainly a semantical exercise of self-deception.

To emphasize the isolation of Estrada and his loss of power, the Supreme Court last Monday issued a resolution backing its decision last Saturday for the Chief Justice to swear in Ms Macapagal, with the phalanx of justices attending. The resolution plated an armor of legal legitimacy to Ms Macapagal's accession and demolished Estrada's legal fiction.

To impress upon Estrada the switch of the loyalty of the Armed Forces, with the entire chain of command, AFP chief of staff to the new administration, Gen. Angelo Reyes, declared at a command conference last Monday that the Armed Forces "has burned" its bridges, and "there's no turning back." This declaration strangles whatever chances there are for Estrada to instigate a coup to try to regain power.

The destabilization of the Macapagal administration follows the example set by the RAM's seven coup attempts on the Aquino administration. If the Macapagal administration is destabilized, it would force her to divert her effort from the rebuilding of the heavily damaged economy to day-to-day crisis management. Given the formidable task of economic rehabilitation and restoration of domestic and international confidence in government, Estrada's guerrilla warfare, disguised as an effort to maintain constitutional fidelity, is intended to see to it that the Macapagal administration fails.

Lawyers are having a field day dissecting the legal nuances of the Supreme Court's resolution; and, it is not surprising that they are looking for

grounds from which to challenge Ms Macapagal's succession. Similarly, lawyers had a season of displaying their cunning, more than erudition, in interpreting procedures at the suspended impeachment trial.

Lawyers may be able to throw up all the unintelligible jargon of their profession, but they forget in the midst of their exercise of hair-splitting the law that grave political crises, such as the one from which we have emerged, have not been decided by legal arguments but by the people rising in the streets to assert their sovereign right to throw out leaders who have lost their trust. The people, through political action, have expanded the meaning and the substance of their basic law beyond the narrow and suffocating legalistic construction lawyers are prepared to accept, in their effort to block the people's demand for exposing the truth and for political and social change.

Marcos constructed a legal fiction to rationalize what he called "constitutional authoritarianism" from 1972 to 1986, and always clothed his decisions and actions with arguments invoking legality. For 14 years, this fiction held the dictatorial system. But in 1986, the people and even the Armed Forces saw through the duplicity foisted by this legalistic system, and went back to their own values of what good government is all about. They rejected the lawyers' arguments and toppled in the first People Power Revolution this fraudulent legal system.

At the impeachment trial of Estrada, the people listened to the lawyers' arguments but when the impeachment tribunal disappointed the people's conception of a fair trial following the 11-10 vote not to open the second envelope of evidence, they rejected the lawyers' semantics, and decided on their own to force out of office a President whose main weapon in the trial was narrow legalism depending on legal technicalities.

Estrada seeks to throw a legal doubt on the legitimacy of the new administration. He swims against the powerful currents of legitimation provided by the Supreme Court, the other political institutions and the state's instruments of coercion—the military and police. Against this institutional coalition, legalistic trickery collapses.

We can't afford any more People Power

LOOK back at the past two decades and weep.

In 1981, a financial crisis that turned off the spigot of financing for industry. From 1983 to February 1986, a nation going up in political and economic flames. From 1988 to 1989, coup attempts that even led to a rebel takeover of the financial district. From 1990 to 1991, the lights went out.

Then in 1996, people power-type of demonstrations to stop a successful President's plot to continue in power by amending the Constitution. Remember that, the charter change move, which really gave us Estrada? Then, in 1997, the Asian financial contagion and the El Niño drought. Finally, 1999 up to the past week: cronyism that killed business confidence, an all-out Mindanao war, kidnappings involving multinational hostages and finally, nearly four months of people power protests with business grinding to a halt.

Count how many crisis years those were: in half of the last two decades, we were in trouble. No wonder our present real GDP per capita today is just about what it was in 1980.

We can't afford any more people power, and the Marcoses and Estradas that require it. Because of technology and globalization, the consequences of a bad presidency and the political crisis it creates will be as swift in hitting the economy as its impact will be magnified. Even in the 1980s, the economy recovered the ground lost from 1983 to 1985 only five years later. It was only roughly in 1994, that we had shed the late-1980s image of a country of coups and kidnappings. All this time, Malaysia and Thailand were taking off. Now there's the giant, China, which threatens to monopolize global investments.

The swiftness of Joseph Estrada's fall, and the emergence of a new administration make up our last chance. Or else, war-ravaged countries like Vietnam or even Cambodia will be overtaking us.

Reason for hope

Look at what's happened in the past four months, and especially in the past five days, and there's reason for hope though.

For starters, if not for people power, we would have had to endure for four more years, at best a drifting presidency, and at worse a protracted political and economic crisis.

But then suddenly we have a new President, Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo. While she won by a landslide for the vice presidency in 1998, there certainly wasn't an assurance that she'd be President in 2004—fact underscored by the fall in her popularity ratings in the past few months. People power though gave us somebody who could be the ideal President for our times.

She not only is as different from Estrada as day is to night. She represents a break from the past. She could be the embodiment of the country's new generation of political leaders. Ms Macapagal is our first "baby-boomer" President, or those born in the immediate post-war 1947 to 1957 decade.

Age certainly isn't everything—five of the now hated 11 "no" senators were in fact baby-boomers. Still though, the odds are that this 53-year-old President would be imbued with a new, progressive worldview different from the old generation of politicians, who ultimately are responsible for where we are now.

Her background gives us reason to believe so. While she could have easily done so using her Macapagal name, she had not been a town mayor, congressman or provincial governor. These are the posts where the culture of corruption, political horse-trading, of dirty politics prevails, passed on to the next generation, and—in the case of former town mayor Estrada—elevated to the highest rung of the political hierarchy. It's a culture even military men imbibe because of their stints as provincial commanders. This is the culture which often overwhelms, and swallows up even the most idealistic of people.

Instead, Ms Macapagal for most of her early working life, was in the academe as an economist, even earning a Ph.D. She is in fact our first President to have undergone the intellectual rigor needed to get a doctorate. She wasn't merely an ivory-tower academic though oblivious to what was going on in the country. In the early 1980s, at the height of the anti-dictatorship movement, she often joined our circle of friends—former 1970 activists and Marxist theoreticians—discussing how Marcos could be overthrown, how the country's economic policies should be geared for the benefit not only of the elite but of the masses.

She joined government at first as assistant trade and industry secretary, and all of her friends thought her career path would be as a technocrat. Her rise to become a two-term senator, and then Vice President had little to do with horse-trading with power blocs. Lucky for her, that's where the Macapagal name and her Nora Aunon-looks helped a lot.

Ms Macapagal's career though isn't really an isolated case. Her rise in the political structure ran parallel to the emergence of civil society organizations and to the increasing involvement in politics and government of baby-boomers in other walks of life other than traditional politics. People Power 2 has resulted in the intersection of these two developments.

Yes, we can't afford any more People Power. After all, People Power 2 has already given us this remarkable opportunity: a President embodying a break from the past at a period when civil society and citizenship have bloomed.

We're lost if we blow this opportunity, most likely our last.

ONE of our worries over Estrada's fall is over the consequence of the crucial role the Armed Forces of the Philippines played. Anyone you talk to in the AFP will tell you that the military establishment under Estrada had become practically independent from civilian rule.

What Estrada controlled tightly—through Panfilo Lacson—was the Philippine National Police. Defense Secretary Orlando Mercado was merely a figurehead, and AFP Chief Gen. Angelo Reyes had become the *primus inter pares* of the general staff which reigned supreme over the AFP. Reyes in fact didn't even consult first with Mercado about the general staff's decision to withdraw their support from Estrada. Reyes simply informed Mercado and asked him that it'll be great if he could join him at Edsa.

With the role the AFP played in putting Ms Macapagal in power, the general staff will most likely be demanding that Ms Macapagal maintain the status quo—for the military to remain practically independent from "politicians."

We'll soon be able to see if Ms Macapagal can reestablish civilian supremacy. It is the AFP general staff which had pushed for the all-out war against the Moro Islamic Liberation Front last year under Estrada, and the military wants to finish off the Muslim insurgents. However, Ms Macapagal with her economic sense—a war is the last thing the country needs right now—and with her NGO supporters, would want a truce with the MILF.

Comments: rtiglaio@inq7.net

GMA's street friends

AT LARGE

Rina Jimenez-David



but she seems inclined to accept the post, only begging for a one-day retreat atop Mt. Banahaw to internalize this life shift.

Other civil society names that have made it to short lists compiled by a "search committee." Ging Quintos Deles as head of the National Anti-Poverty Commission (NAPC), which was the focus of the President's talk at the celebratory breakfast; Karina Constantino-David for Housing, a post she held in the Estrada administration but left since she could no longer stomach the undue influence of the Midnight Cabinet; Jimmy Galvez Tan for Health, another possible "returnee" who was DOH chief for about a year in the Ramos administration; Nicky Perlas, an advocate of sustainable development and civil society empowerment, for Environment; and Roy Oliveros of the LMP, progressive labor's candidate for DOLE. I also heard that Rep. Butch Abad has been put forward as a candidate for the agriculture department.

SHORT notes:

Saying that she was keeping true to her father's dictum that a leader should lead a "simple lifestyle," the President said she took her oath of office not in the traditional Filipino dress, but in a business suit, in keeping with the prevailing atmosphere at Edsa where people were garbed in "blue jeans and T-shirts." She seemed to have relented to the demands of office later in the day, however, changing into a becoming *terno* for an affair with the diplomatic community.

Another sign of simplicity: There was and will be no inaugural ball. "This is our party," she said with a smile at the breakfast for civil society, where the simple fare consisted of fresh fruits and boneless *daing na bangus*.

Those curious about the girl holding the Bible on which the President swore her oath of office, may be interested to know that she is Cecilia Paz Abad, daughter of Rep. Butch and Sina Abad. Patsy, says her mother, was born as an icon for peace, being born amid the season of coup attempts that bedeviled the Aquino administration.

One question lingering in the minds of those watching the oath-taking ceremonies, though, is: Who was that *mestiza* with dyed blond hair frantically having her photo ops with the President as the Chief Justice prepared to swear in GMA? It was a good thing a security aide yanked off the woman, who was anchoring herself by the President-to-be's side. Otherwise, history would have recorded President Macapagal attached to this woman-in-black-like a Siamese twin, on GMA's day of days.

DO you have photos and videos of the People Power 2 phenomenon, in the Edsa Shrine area, Mendiola, or anywhere in the country where people gathered to kick out a corrupt President? Do you have any reminiscences, experiences, reflections and even jokes about those stirring three-four days that shook the nation?

If you do, then send them to the Kompil 2 offices at the Ateneo de Manila University where these materials will be gathered into a fitting documentation of the events that led up to, and took place during and immediately after, People Power 2.

A particular concern is that news footage aired on local and foreign TV networks have tended to focus on political personalities and the shifts and turns of political and military loyalties. Thus this call for documentation of the events, personalities and emotions of those days from a "worm's eye view," the view of ordinary men, women and children who are the real "heroes" of Edsa and anywhere people gathered to lend their warm bodies to the cause. Including, for that matter, foreign locales where overseas Filipinos staged their own demonstrations.

Here's your chance to tell your own "People Power story" and preserve it for generations to come.

Comments are welcome at rinajd@hotmail.com

Who is Dinky Soliman?

COMMENTARY

Sylvia L. Mayuga

"WHO is Dinky Soliman?" responded Korina Sanchez when President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo announced the second of her first two Cabinet choices in a keenly watched first one-on-one TV interview. With a hint of impishness that mystified the mainstream while warming hearts at the center of Filipino "civil society," our new President added, "I bet she'll fall off her chair if she's watching because I've given no hint that I've been thinking of her."

With that presidential glance, this newspaper said the next day, that the mysterious Dinky is Corazon Juliano-Soliman, chair of Kompil 2. Her kilometeric bio-data awaits another day but with her phone predictably busy at this writing, the civil society grapevine is already buzzing with her first reaction. She has asked allies to enter deep prayer mode with her to discern the meaning of this turn of events to an organic community to which she is attached like a huge sunflower to leaves, stem and soil.

Simply put, what is being weighed in the balance is whether the heart of Philippine civil society—tried and tested pre- and post-martial law, pre- and post-Cory, FVR and Erap—is ready to go mainstream. On the con-side is the fact that Dinky Soliman, a laughing, well-loved grey eminence to civil society at 53, has always done better as a fiscalizer to government. Given the many polarized vested interests of Philippine society, its President has by definition always been a great compromiser at home and abroad. Given that, civil society has historically done much better as government's challenger, visionary adviser and principled ally as the times have demanded.

This exercise, going on 30 years for Dinky's generation of quietly effective leaders not particularly concerned with media projection, has

by turns been inspiring, dangerous and tedious. Its historical rewards have however been immeasurable. One telling snapshot of Dinky's career comes from the years of Marcos' chemical-powered Green Revolution. As a young graduate of UP's School of Social Work, she counted the seeds of indigenous rice strains in the fields of Sta. Rosa, Nueva Ecija as a team member of the NGO Masipag in the dead of night. Under military suspicion that they were NPA organizers, they were trying to help local farmers save these rice strains from extinction in a grass-roots program of chemical-free cross-fertilization.

A second snapshot is Dinky nine months pregnant with her second child, bouncing down the Batasan grounds at the forefront of an NGO campaign for a new landlord-dominated Congress to pass the CARP law in 1987. It was the climax to months of getting the wild horses of the extreme Left to join the negotiating table with the rest of the agrarian reform community in the People's Congress for Agrarian Reform.

Not only did Dinky's stellar gift for facilitation—getting growling enemies to come to common ground with courtesy and the beginnings of understanding—emerge on a nationwide scale. Her love and authentic appreciation for the farmers of our agricultural country deepened into bedrock as she sought to translate the language of the historically oppressed into working rela-

tions with the rest of Philippine society. Evolution, not revolution—negotiating in wait for a better day—was not a popular way of summing things up in the heat of that supremely polarized moment but Dinky and company pulled it off with grace.

Since then civil society hearts have been bruised and broken in the Aquino years, fired with new hope but again disappointed with the Ramos years' pussyfooting on its own Social Reform Agenda, tentative in the first 10 months of Estrada, then angered and stirred to what flowed like an angry river toward Edsa 2.

This time, thinking things through about Ms Macapagal involves dissecting her perspective on GATT and the World Trade Organization which, given present terms, remain anathema to civil society—not only here but, as witnessed in Seattle at the end of 1999, globally. A word on the global aspect of Dinky and her civil society allies' work speaks volumes that may yet save 'Sen. Miriam Defensor-Santiago's soul.

Weaving in and out of formal institutions like the UN without concern for personal credit is all in a day's work in civil society culture. The Rio Earth Summit, the peace negotiations in Cambodia, the Habitat Conference in Turkey, to name three, count among the global fora to which Dinky Soliman has lent her gift of facilitation: to brilliant account. At home, unknown to ABS-CBN until last Saturday, she is known to Muslim Mindanao, the riverside communities of the Pasig River, the foothill communities of Mt. Banahaw and farmers all over the country, to name a few. Vision rooted in dependable soil and watered by honest tears blossoms in wondrous ways with which even dependably speedy airwaves have yet to catch up.

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PHILIPPINE PRESS INSTITUTE

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Catching the many facets of truth

MA. Ceres P. Doyo's article on lawyers and journalists (PDI, 1/11/01) is highly convincing for its pathos. Her thesis is that, compared to lawyers (who are often after hard facts and things considered cognitive), journalists are generally more human in their manner of questioning in that they are able to elicit from the intellectual and affective dimensions of their interviewees.

Doyo's to-die-for quotations ("All I remember is that chickens flew away" and "They gave me back my shoes but the socks were gone") derived through affective ways of questioning the victims of military power-tripping in the '80s reveal what went on in the minds of the speakers: shock, stupefac-

Unchanging patriotism

DURING the 1971 Constitutional Convention when it became apparent that Marcos was dictating how the delegates would vote on issues brought to the floor, it was a lean young man with a hungry look who would risk going to jail every time there was a call for nominal voting. When his turn to vote would come up, this man from Cagayan de Oro would stand up boldly, registering his vote thus: "I refuse to participate!" We, the delegates, of course knew what he was risking every time he did that.

Recently, because of certain developments, some people had begun to form negative speculations about him, wondering "What happened to you, Nene?" Doubts were entertained about the fighter-activist. But for me, I never for a moment wavered in my faith in his patriotism.

I know that at the end of the day, he would still be the same Nene Pimentel we have always known him to be—a man of high ideals, of conviction and of courage. His resigning the Senate presidency was just true to form. For him, principle takes precedence over position, power, pelf and lucre. Would that there would be more like him! *Sana'y marami pang lider na tulad niya!*—**OSCAR F. SANTOS COIR, 84 Masikap St., Teachers' Village, Quezon City**

tion, fear, pain, anguish, feelings of helplessness and oppression, etc.

The interviewer could not have elicited those responses if her questions had been confined to finding out what merely existed or what happened.

Every interviewer should strive to elicit pathos which lawyering apparently undermines, if not obliterates fully, from its sight. I suppose the reason for this veering away from what is emotional is that the practice of law worships logic (or at least the twisting of it). Our lawyers put so much premium on logic that they forget to realize that there are other ways of looking at reality and that the most acceptable interpretation of reality to every-

one is the composite of these ways of seeing. At the very least, there is convergence among diverse perspectives. In other words, the "truth" that we are in search of does not rely on what is cognitive alone. It has to be merged with what is in the heart. We need to be more sensible when dealing with our problems. Also, we need more sensible representatives, that is, makers and interpreters of our laws, counsels, senators and judges included. In that way, the result of any deliberation will satisfy every mind, every soul.

It takes sensibility to see the entire picture.—**GENE S. NAVERA, 8767 Bangkal Extension, Los Baños, Laguna**

Thanking Erap and the 11 senators

TO ERAP and the 11 "No" senators, thanks:

- For reigniting the flame of the Edsa spirit.

- Providing the cause for all sectors to unite as one people.

- For reminding us once more that power ultimately resides with us, the people.

- For giving the young people a first-hand experience on what the "Edsa People Power thing" was all about.

- For making us appreciate the heroism of "ordinary people" like Clarissa Ocampo, Ruben Almadro, Edgardo Espiritu and the other witnesses who sacrificed personal safety and comfort to expose the truth about the kind of President we have.

- For proving that even among criminals, there's redemption after confession, as in the case of Gov. Luis "Chavit" Singson.

- For ensuring that we will never again be blinded by charisma, affected accent, blood relationship to a national hero, love for basketball, affinity for folk heroes with *anting-anting*, respect for oldies and fags, comic talents, physical beauty and feigned intelligence in choosing our next set of senators and congressmen.

- For making it easier for a father like me to explain to my 8-year-old kid what democracy, public accountability and love of country mean in practical terms.—**ED DAMES, 23 Bagong Anyo St., De Castro Subdivision, Pasig City**

Pampanga got its quarry fee shares

THIS is to correct the news item which was published in your paper on Dec. 20, 2000. The item states that then President Estrada announced that he would be giving more than P2 million to the provincial government of Pampanga as its share for the quarry fees, which are now being collected by the Department of Environment and Natural Resources through its corporate arm, the Natural Resources Development Corp. (NRDC).

During the LGUs' distribution of shares on Dec. 19, the province of Pampanga received and acknowledged

the receipt from the President—three checks from the DENR-NRDC amounting to P2,231,380. Mr. Estrada handed the checks on stage to the provincial cashier, Gloria Liongson.

We would like to correct the impression that the provincial government did not receive its share on the said occasion.—**BIENVENIDO G. TUMALE, project manager, Department of Environment and Natural Resources-Natural Resources Development Corp., SRA Annex Bldg., North Avenue, Diliman, Quezon City**

LETTERS

Waking of slumbering patriot

A SLUMBERING patriot—that's what I've been the past decade. I was apathetic to the direction that this country took, primarily because I existed in a cozy world that was insulated from the buffets of most economic and political turmoil.

Recent events, however, roused me. I witnessed the gradual erosion of the stock market, the fall of the peso, the blatantly brazen political cover-ups. These sickened me. Yet, for a time, I still remained mildly indifferent.

All that changed when outraged exclamations against our leaders deluged my e-mail box and ICQ. And the funny thing was, foreigners sent these e-mail, not Filipinos! I operate a very small international e-commerce site that puts me in touch with nationals from other countries. From these very people I received messages of sympathy, outrage and indignation. Apparently, their eyes had been glued to world events and they themselves can see the ignominy of the entire impeachment process. Based on CNN's coverage, the foreigners branded the impeachment trial a "sham," and the impeachment tribunal, a "kangaroo court."

They asked how the Filipinos allowed such venerable proceedings to deteriorate into a "field of lies." Strong words coming from non-Filipinos. I felt shame...it was a disgrace that outsiders manifested far greater concern than I did.

My cyberfriends advised me that the impeachment trial was an impotent medicine. They lauded the 1986 Edsa Revolution and proclaimed that a revival of People Power was the sole remedy. I agreed with them. We had to take our future in our hands and fashion it as the way we wanted it. Long live Edsa!!!—**JOEY RIÑOZA PLAZO, ADD-RESS WITH-HELD UPON REQUEST**

Disincentive for taking up law

I GRADUATED last June with a degree in Anthropology, and I'd like to take up law. This, however, changed on Jan. 12 when I watched the replay of the impeachment trial as I religiously do. To make the story short, it was former Finance Secretary Edgardo Espiritu being grilled on the witness stand. As he was being asked the final question (courtesy of Senators Raul Roco and Ramon Revilla) I would've surmised that tens of millions of Filipinos were dying to hear the names of the "smugglers" allegedly having links to Malacañang.

My thanks goes to both these senators when they insisted on the truth even when both the prosecution and defense lawyers agreed the witness did not have to answer. At least the country now knows of two impartial judges in Roco and Revilla. Rest assured that in Revilla's case *ay walang kamag-anak*, being the uncle of the former finance chief. He even told his nephew to be brave enough to tell the court the alleged smugglers' names.

The witness obviously knew the names of the alleged smugglers and was about to give an answer to the query but thanks to Senators Frank Drilon and Miriam Defensor-Santiago whose hearts apparently empathized with the witness. "He's been through terrible stress lately," both Santiago and Drilon explained. Earlier, Drilon was more vocal in telling the court that he even personally knew the witness' wife and hence did not pressure the witness for an answer. The witness elected not to give an answer, to my dismay and

probably to the disappointment of millions of viewers that afternoon. As we prayed for an answer from the witness, my companion commented, "*Napaka-kill-joy naman ng Miriam na 'yan!*" I said it's not kill-joy but rather "kill-truth!"

I agree with Roco's line of questioning: "Why? Is there an individual in the Philippines more powerful than the President himself?" If there is, then the more we should know who these persons are because it actually proves that the President is incompetent to govern! This is why I believe that the question asked was relevant to the case against the President. I am not a lawyer but I want to repeat what I stated above. The witness knew some alleged smugglers connected to Malacañang. But he elected not to divulge the names.

I was just wondering why the Chief Justice did not insist on making the witness answer the question when the Bureau of Customs has had the reputation of being one of the most corrupt agencies in the government. Well, the Chief Justice has made a ruling and you do not question that. And it is supposed to be legal. And I guess this is what I have to train for when I take up law. Thanks, but no thanks. I got a pair of eyes and ears which I'd rather use. In my heart of hearts, and I guess for the millions of Filipinos too, what might have transpired on that afternoon of Jan. 12 may be legally correct...but morally wrong. Thanks for changing my life. Law school, anyone?—**DANIEL DULNUAN, University of the Philippines, Diliman, Quezon City**

God writing straight with crooked lines

THE BLATANT use of the tyranny of numbers by the pro-Erap senators is God writing straight with crooked lines. It is the force that triggered an avalanche of anti-Estrada sentiments that swept the corrupt President away from his fortress on the Pasig riverbank.

Joining the anti-Erap People Power 2 was our small contribution to this avalanche of a nationwide, if not worldwide effort, of

the Filipinos to redeem themselves.

We have proved to ourselves, to the future generations and to the whole human community that ours is a noble race, that we are a people who cannot tolerate corruption, immorality, abuse of power, oppression and injustice, that we are capable of responsible self-determination and that we care dearly for our country and its future.—**MA. GRACIA RIÑOZA PLAZO**

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The WORLD

MARGOT J. BATERINA, Editor

Bush reimposes ban on overseas abortion funds

WASHINGTON—President George W. Bush on Monday strode into a political minefield on just his second full day in office by reimposing a ban on federal funds for overseas family-planning groups that support abortion.

"It is my conviction that taxpayer funds should not be used to pay for abortions or advocate or actively promote abortion, either here or abroad," he said in his executive order.

The decree reversed predecessor Bill Clinton's 1993 order lifting what its foes call the "global gag rule," also known as the Mexico City Policy because ex-president Ronald Reagan originally unveiled the ban at a 1984 conference there.

The restriction aims to prevent overseas groups that accept federal aid from using their own resources to do the surgery, lobby foreign governments to ease access to abortion, or advocate the procedure in family planning.

Using US monies abroad to fund abortions or urge governments to relax restrictions on the procedure has been illegal since 1975, according to the pro-abortion rights National Abortion Rights Action League (Naral).

The highly symbolic move came as both sides in the battle over the right to end a pregnancy took to the streets nationwide on the 28th anniversary of the controversial Roe v. Wade US Supreme Court decision that legalized the procedure.

Bush has always publicly opposed abortion—except in cases of rape, incest, or to safeguard the mother's health—but Monday's decision could scuttle his stated plan to mend fences with opposition Democrats, most of whom back abortion rights.

"This is not only a bad decision for the world as a whole (but) a bad political decision," because it does not reflect public support for keeping abortion legal, charged Democratic Party national chair Joe Andrew. **AFP**

Palestinians, Israelis tackle heart of conflict

TABA, Egypt—Palestinian and Israeli negotiators grappled here Monday with problems at the heart of their decades-old conflict, in the biggest push for peace since a Palestinian uprising erupted in late September.

With the prospect that hardliner Ariel Sharon could win Israel's Feb. 6 elections for prime minister, Palestinian negotiators said talks had started on the toughest issues, such as holy Jerusalem and Palestinian refugees.

Mixed signs emerged from the Palestinian territories, as an Israeli soldier was seriously wounded by a roadside bomb in Gaza, but Israel eased a blockade on Gaza and the West Bank that has choked the Palestinian economy.

"The issues which represent the keys to an agree-

ment are under discussion," Palestinian delegation leader Ahmed Qorei said after negotiators ended the second day of a round of talks that could last 10 days in the Red Sea resort at Taba.

The negotiating teams then went to the neighboring Israeli resort of Eilat where the Israelis had invited the Palestinians for dinner, but Qorei said the negotiations would continue back in Taba every day until Friday.

After launching their talks here late Sunday, negotiators broke into committees and worked into the evening Monday on the most difficult issues, such as Jerusalem, security, borders and the fate of Palestinian refugees. **AFP**

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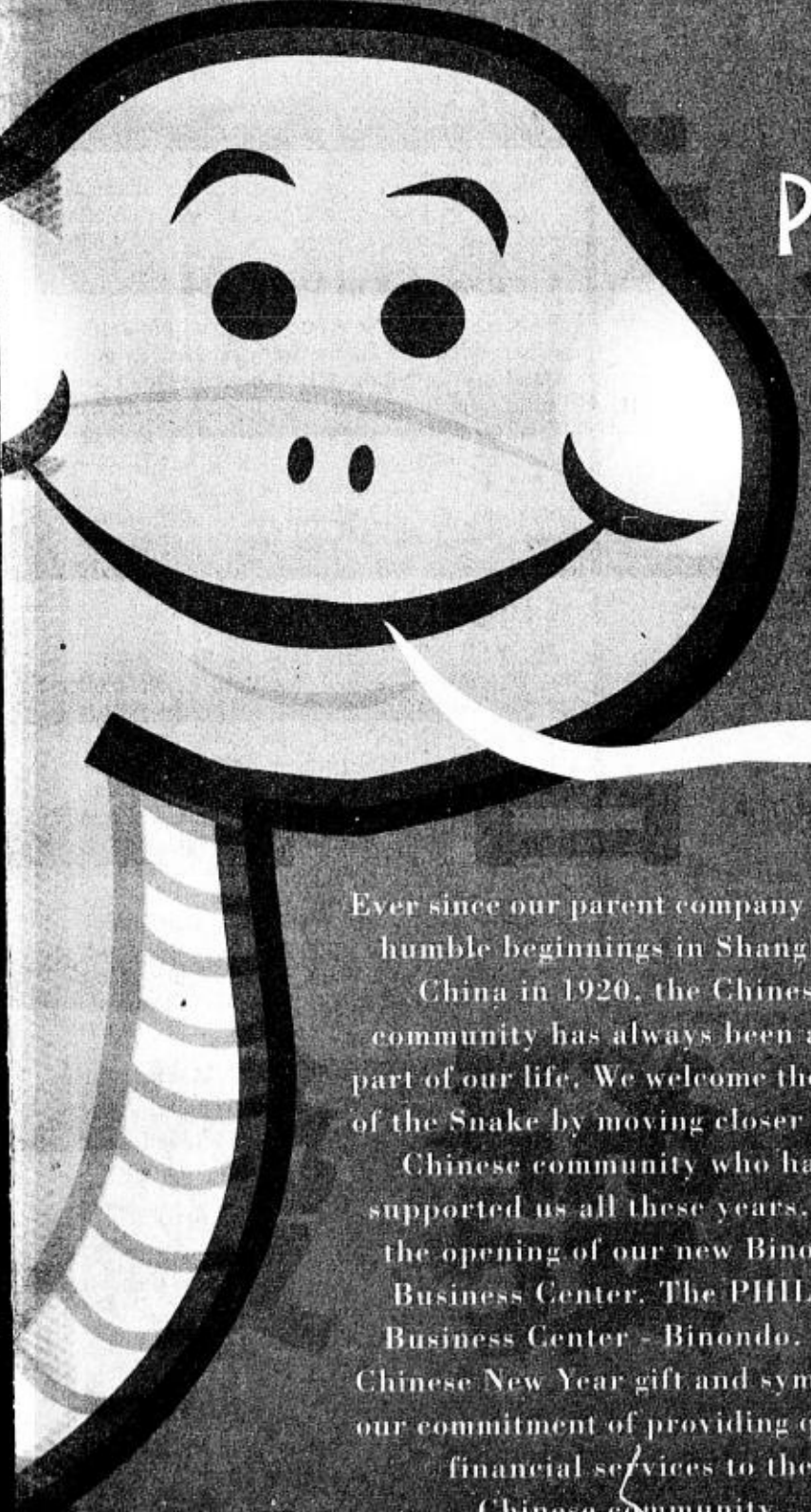
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INDIA'S MIGHT

India's Prithvi Missile is shown on a transporter by the Indian Army during a dress rehearsal for the Republic Day celebrations in New Delhi, Jan. 23. The missile is one of many armaments that will be displayed during the Republic Day parade on Jan. 26.

REUTERS

Anatomy of a deal: Clinton listened as prosecutors talked

WASHINGTON—Two days after Christmas, Bill Clinton sat across from Independent Counsel Robert Ray in the ornate Map Room of the White House and listened in silence to his adversary.

Just two years before, the same room had been used by prosecutors to grill Clinton about his affair with Monica Lewinsky. But this time there was no oath, nor a videotape to record sworn answers for a federal grand jury.

Just a tantalizing offer. Ray promised not to prosecute the president when he left office if Clinton, in return, would agree to a suspension of his Arkansas law license for a substantial period, said lawyers familiar with the meeting, speaking on condition of anonymity.

The meeting on the evening of Dec. 27 touched off three weeks of negotiations that stretched to Arkansas and eventually led to the deal that spared Clinton the prospect of indictment.

By previous agreement, Ray did all the talk-

ing during the 15-minute presentation while Clinton just listened.

"There was no negotiation or dialogue," said one source close to the Clinton legal team.

When Ray finished his presentation, Clinton lawyer David Kendall thanked him and the prosecutor left.

Clinton's lawyers saw no downside to the deal. After the Map Room meeting, the focus shifted to Arkansas, where on Jan. 10 the state bar disciplinary committee authorized its chief prosecutor to make an offer to Clinton's attorneys: A five-year suspension of Clinton's law license and a \$25,000 fine.

"The five-year suspension and the \$25,000 fine were the final terms that the committee authorized," said Marie Miller, the Little Rock, Arkansas, lawyer hired by a state Supreme Court committee to prosecute the Clinton disbarment case.



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Japan team finds 3,554 meteorites in Antarctica

TOKYO—A Japanese observation team has found 3,554 meteorites in Antarctica—the third-largest single discovery of them on the continent, a government official said Tuesday.

The latest find was made around the Yamato mountain range about 300 km south of the Japanese Antarctic base, said Shigeru Kure of the ministry of education, culture, sports, science and technology.

A meteorite is a meteor that survives the destructive effects of a flight through the atmosphere and falls to the ground in one piece or in fragments from outer space.

Six members of the Japanese observation

team took part in the latest search conducted between Nov. 19 and Jan. 10, Kure said.

Japan's Showa Base is located on the northern rim of Antarctica.

"Such a large number of meteorites discovered may include some rare ones that could help in finding the origin of the solar system, or the possibility of

any traces of life on other planets," Kure said.

Kure said scientists in Japan would later conduct thorough analyses on the meteorites discovered in Antarctica.

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SUNDAY, JANUARY 28 9:00 A.M. GRADE SCHOOL FIELD DEMONSTRATION

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WORLDBRIEFS

New year starts today

SHANGHAI—For a month, Tang Guangfang has been preparing for the onslaught. Extra help is hired for the two bus stations that Tang manages, and extra buses rented. He's canceled days off. Tang's hour of reckoning comes this week in China's rite of spring, when millions of Chinese visit their hometowns to see in the lunar new year, which starts Wednesday. Airlines, trains and bus companies are being put to the test as tourists flood out of cities in what might be the world's biggest single movement of humanity. The Chinese government says it expects travelers to take 1.6 billion trips during the holiday week, known as the Spring Festival. Airlines are adding 20 percent more flights, while train stations have opened overflow waiting rooms. Tang expects the number of passengers passing through his bus stations daily to triple to more than 4,000.

AP

Disaster in Galapagos

QUITO—Ecuadoran President Gustavo Noboa late Monday declared a state of emergency in the Galapagos Islands due to an oil spill threatening the world famous nature reserve. In announcing the measure, presidential spokesperson Alfredo Negrete compared the disaster to an earthquake. The Ecuadoran oil tanker Jessica ran aground in the area last week, releasing 600 tons of fuel oil over 1,200 sq. km. of pristine sea off the islands. The slick struck the small Galapagos island of Santa Fe around midday Monday, 45 km north of the spot off the island of San Cristobal where the Jessica first ran aground. So far four pelicans had been found dead in the area where the oil slick hit the shore, Negrete said.

AFP

3 in human smuggling

SEOUL—Police detained three South Korean sailors Tuesday for trying to smuggle into the country 21 Chinese and 28 ethnic Koreans from China. Arrested were the crewmen of the 996-ton South Korean cargo ship, Zenithmine, which was caught as it tried to unload the 49 illegal entrants near Pusan, South Korea's largest port on the south coast, police said. "All the 49 will be deported to China," said Kim Jung-hwan, a police lieutenant in Pusan, 420 km south-east of Seoul.

AP

Pope to visit Ukraine

KIEV—Ukraine's Orthodox Church on Monday demanded that Pope John Paul II postpone a scheduled June visit, but the Vatican said it would go ahead despite an Orthodox threat to break ties amid a festering row over the control of parishes. In a statement released late Monday in Kiev, the Ukraine church asked the 80-year-old Pontiff to put off his visit to the country's four million Greek Catholics "until a time more favorable to the development of good relations between our churches." "We have received no messages about this," Vatican spokesperson Joaquin Navarro Valls said hours later.

AFP

Quake death toll: 724

SAN SALVADOR—The toll from the earthquake which hit El Salvador on Jan. 13 now stands at 724 people killed and more than one million left homeless, the country's National Emergency Committee said Monday. The figure for the number of people left homeless—1,016,440—is a significant increase on the previous official estimate of 750,000 homeless. The number of wounded was 4,421 people.

AFP

4 fugitives nabbed

DENVER—Four men believed to be among seven inmates who escaped from a Texas prison last month and killed a police officer were arrested south of here Monday while a fifth took his own life, Colorado police said. The man, identified as Larry Harper, committed suicide after police surrounded him in a mobile home, cutting off escape routes. The so-called Texas Seven, described as highly dangerous, on Dec. 13 methodically overpowered prison guards, maintenance workers and other inmates, and drove out unchallenged from the Connally Unit, about 100 km southeast of San Antonio, Texas.

AFP

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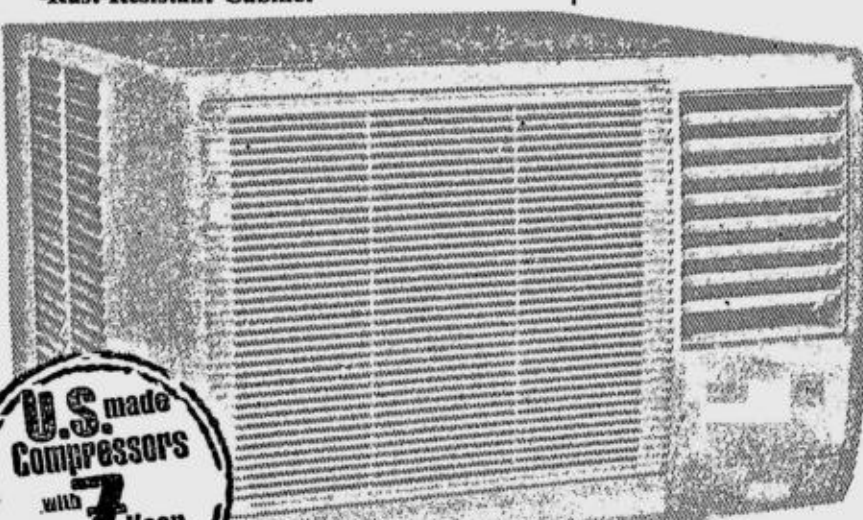
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Across the NATION

TONY BERGONIA, Assistant Editor

MILF guerrillas ask for ceasefire

BY EDWIN O. FERNANDEZ
AND JOWEL F. CANUDAY
PDI Mindanao Bureau
BY DELFIN T. MALLARI JR.
PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

COTABATO CITY—The Moro Islamic Liberation Front has called on President Macapagal-Arroyo to immediately declare a ceasefire and recall her predecessor's "all-out war" policy in Mindanao.

"We are hoping (that she would make the) declaration because it will give way for the peaceful settlement of the conflict," MILF spokesperson Eid Kabalu said.

Kabalu likened the new administration to "a new sun rising." He said "we now feel a new climate or atmosphere of peace in Mindanao."

He said the "all-out war" policy declared by then President Joseph Estrada in March last year was still in effect.

A ceasefire declaration, Kabalu said, would restore confidence between and among peace negotiators.

"No other President has ever declared war against Muslims in Mindanao. Only Estrada did. You see what happened to him in return," he said, referring to Estrada's fall from power.

Kabalu said the MILF was "closely monitoring events" although the center of action was in Metro Manila.

"While there was no specific directive for MILF fighters not to move, our fighters simply did not move. That was the feeling until now... to give GMA an opportunity to show her sincerity," Kabalu said.

The MILF wants the peace talks held abroad and with the active participation of any member-state of the Organization of the Islamic Conference.

"We prefer Indonesia because of its proximity and it is an Asian country," Kabalu told radio dxMS here.

The President, in an interview with the

Davao City-based radio dxDC yesterday, said her administration would be crafting a new approach to the peace talks with Moro and communist rebels.

She said she has assigned a new team to initiate the "reconstruction of the peace process."

"This is not just a matter of resuming the peace process. What is important is that there should be a new design for the peace process," the President said in Cebuano.

She said details of the new design would be announced later as these would have to be made by the new peace negotiators.

Ms Macapagal said Executive Secretary Renato de Villa was still forming the new team for the peace process and the National Security Council (NSC).

She said she had yet to appoint her adviser for the peace process, the national security adviser and other people who will be involved in the peace efforts.

In Lucena City, Quezon provincial officials and victims of the armed conflict in Southern Tagalog yesterday welcomed the proposed resumption of peace talks between communist rebels and the new administration.

The communist-led National Democratic Front said it was willing to engage in another round of talks with the government "under any administration."

"We are likewise considering exploratory talks for the resumption of the GRP-NDF peace negotiations," Luis Jalandoni, NDF negotiating panel chair, told the INQUIRER in response to a query through the Internet from Utrecht, the Netherlands.

Quezon Rep. Wigberto Tañada said the proposed resumption of peace negotiations between the government and the communist and Moro rebels was a "welcome news."

He said the move was a sign that peace in the country would now be given a chance to reign.

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We urge the public to support responsible text messaging.

To lift from the editorial that appeared in the 23 January issue of **TODAY**: *Cory Aquino said it best when she was asked on the program Assignment if she thought that texting was good, given the speed with which people texted each other to go to Edsa? "Only if it texts the truth," she said, smiling.*

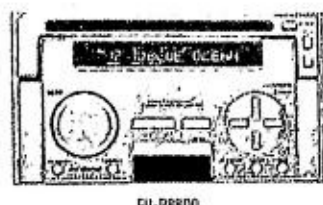
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'BALIMBING' SEASON AGAIN

Estrada allies in Visayas back GMA

CEBU CITY—"Tis the season of *balimbings* (turncoats) again.

Allies of deposed President Joseph Estrada in Cebu, Bacolod City and Aklan have pledged support for his successor, Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo.

Bacolod Rep. John Orola, Aklan Gov. Florencio Miraflores, Cebu City Mayor Alvin Garcia, and even the Romualdezes of Leyte declared their support.

Orola, who was the most associated with Estrada among the politicians in Bacolod, called on his constituents to be united and pray for the sustained success of the new administration.

"Let us not anymore allow the further division of our people. Instead, let us work together for the healing of the wounds inflicted by the turn of events in the past few months," Orola said in a press statement Monday.

At the height of the clamor for Estrada's resignation, Orola said he never discouraged the people from joining protests.

Orola, a member of the Nationalist People's Coalition, had always been in the company of Estrada whenever the latter visited in Negros Occidental.

At the height of the "jueteng"

scandal in November, the lawmaker was among the first to defend Estrada, saying the latter still had the support of the poor.

Ariel Guides, Sanlakas spokesperson in Negros, said Orola never spoke against Estrada even during the crisis that led to his ouster.

Miraflores, another close ally of Estrada, said all municipal mayors in the province's 17 towns had passed a resolution of support to the new administration.

Miraflores and Aklan Rep. Allen Quimpo won their reelection bids in 1998 under Estrada's Lapiang ng Masang Pilipino. All members of the provincial board and the municipal mayors are their allies.

Constitutional process

They, however, refused to join the nationwide call for Estrada's resignation since the "jueteng" scandal broke out in October. They had maintained that the constitutional process must be followed through the impeachment proceeding.

In Cebu City, another Estrada ally is singing the same tune.

"Definitely, I am supporting the new President and even more because she is close to our family," said Mayor Garcia.

"We have a new administration.

It is time to back her up and unite for the good of the country," he said in a telephone interview on Monday.

Garcia aligned himself with Estrada and Sen. John Osmeña after a falling out with his erstwhile friend, former Mayor Tomas Osmeña, a leader of the opposition party Promdi.

Garcia said he withdrew his support for Estrada on Thursday, two days before the President was ousted through People Power II on Saturday.

But the mayor said that as a local official, his support was to the administration, not to the person.

"If my pledge of support to the administration will mean that I am a *balimbing*, then maybe I am. But the important thing is that whoever is in the administration, I will support. I am supportive of the leader of this country," he said.

Garcia said he had been supportive of Ms Macapagal since she was a senator and, later, Vice President because of family ties.

He said his father, Jesus Garcia Sr., and the late President Diosdado Macapagal were friends as both were delegates of the 1971 Constitutional Convention. "They used to play golf together," he said.

Another LAMP member, Mandaua City Mayor Thadeo Ouano, switched back to Promdi, one of the political parties comprising the United Opposition.

Ouano, who had previously thrown his support for Estrada, said he was merely returning to his old party.

Romualdez country

In Leyte, Rep. Alfred Romualdez said the Romualdezes recognized Ms Macapagal as the new Chief Executive of the country.

"We will follow the constitutional successor," he said.

But the new administration will not affect the political landscape in Leyte, known as the bailiwick of the Romualdezes.

"The Romualdezes can run at their own steam. They have their own engine," said Bernardita Valenzuela, a spokesperson of Tacloban City Mayor Alfredo "Bejo" Romualdez.

Mayor Romualdez earlier said what Estrada was now experiencing was reminiscent of what happened to the Romualdezes in 1986.

"It's just a repeat performance," he said. Romualdez, a close Estrada ally, was referring to the "persecution" that the Romualdezes and the Marcoses suffered during the

Joson, Dys give support to Macapagal administration

CABANATUAN CITY—Nueva Ecija Gov. Tomas Joson III, one of ousted President Joseph Estrada's staunchest supporters, called on his provincemates on Monday to support the administration of President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo.

He also expressed hope that Ms Macapagal's call for "healing and rebuilding" would be given true meaning and that the "politics of vengeance" would be eradicated.

Joson was among a small group of friends who stayed with Estrada at the Presidential Residence on Friday, the day before he was removed from office.

In a press statement, Joson said he hoped that what happened to Nueva Ecija in the past would not be repeated during the Macapagal administration.

He was referring to 12 years before the Estrada administration during which even an invitation for the President to visit Nueva Ecija was blocked by political allies of the administration party.

It was only during the Estrada administration that the Josons became allied with the ruling party.

Under the Estrada presidency, Nueva Ecija received almost all the needed projects for agricultural development, Joson said.

He said his party, the Bagong Lakas ng Nueva Ecija (Balane), would remain allied with Estrada's party, the Lapiang ng Masang Pilipino.

He said he would "coexist peacefully and extend support to the new administration."

In Pampanga, Bishop Paciano Aniceto said the Catholic Bishops Conference of the Philippines would meet this week at the San Carlos Seminary in Makati City to come up with a statement on moral values for the new administration.

He said the bishops would be hoping that Ms Macapagal would adopt their statement.

Despite the bad economy that she inherited from Estrada, Aniceto said he believed the new President would be able to handle the affairs of the government well.

He said Ms Macapagal's experience and education as an economist would help her run the government.

In Isabela, members of the powerful Dy family, who are identified with Estrada, have also offered their support to Ms Macapagal.

Isabela Gov. Benjamin Dy, who ran under Lakas during the 1998 elections, said he bolted from the LAMP even before Ms Macapagal took her oath as president.

Dy had publicly criticized anti-Estrada rallies in Isabela, claiming the province was a "pro-Erap country."

The governor ordered the printing of "Tiwala pa rin kami kay Erap" (We still trust Erap) stickers at the height of anti-Estrada rallies in the province last year.

His brother, Isabela Rep. Faustino Dy Jr., a Nationalist People's Coalition member and a close ally of Estrada, also declared support for Ms Macapagal. *Anselmo Roque and Bert Basa, PDI Central Luzon Desk, and Gobleth Moulie, Yolanda Fuertes and Villamor Visaya Jr., PDI Northern Luzon Bureau*

War games postponed until 2002

AIR FORCE CITY, Clark Field—The Teak Piston military exercises between the United States Air Force and the Philippine Air Force scheduled here from Jan. 20 to Feb. 5 have been canceled until next year due to the recent political development in the country.

This was confirmed Tuesday by Maj. Allan Ballesteros, civil military operations officer of the PAF's 600th Air Base Wing, who said all personnel, aircraft and military equipment of the USAF had been flown back to US bases in Japan and Korea.

Some 200 USAF personnel and five US aircraft arrived here from Jan. 15 to 20 to participate in the Teak Piston exercises under the Visiting Forces Agreement.

The yearly activities consist of lectures and scenarios on air interception, airborne operations, fast-roping exhibitions, C-130 operations and helicopter refueling.

These serve as a prelude to the Balikatan 2001, in which thousands of Filipino and American troops are expected to participate from April to May.

Ballesteros said the USAF had concluded the pullout of its personnel and equipment on Sunday.

"It's all clear here now. All the US soldiers and their equipment are gone," he said.

He said the withdrawal of the US troops was to prevent speculations that the US government had something to do with Estrada's ouster last week.

He said the USAF officials also wanted to stop speculations that the US troops who arrived had been sent to escort Estrada out of the country. *Jun Matig, PDI Central Luzon Desk*

Vigan is Ilocos Sur's first city

BY FRANK CIMATU AND PETER LA. JULIAN
PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

VIGAN, Ilocos Sur—Bigueños overwhelmingly endorsed the cityhood bid of the 244-year-old Vigan in a plebiscite Monday, making it the country's newest city and, oddly, the oldest as well.

With 55 percent of 21,400 voters participating in the plebiscite, 12,240 or 94.74 percent endorsed Republic Act 8988, which creates the City of Vigan. Only 958 voted "No."

Lawyer Richard Domingo, Ilocos Sur election supervisor, said voter turnout was 61.67 percent.

Mayor Eva Grace Singson Medina made a formal proclamation of Vigan's cityhood on Monday night during the opening of the town fiesta.

Ilocos Sur Gov. Luis "Chavit" Singson and Vigan officials attended the cityhood proclamation at the Plaza Burgos where a large crowd gathered.

But unlike other cityhood plebiscites, the question given to the Bigueños was "Do you validate the Royal Decree issued in 1757 proclaiming Ciudad Fernandina?"

The question reportedly caused confusion to some voters. Because Vigan lacks the necessary requirements for a city like population and size, officials tried to go through the route of history.

In 1757, Ciudad Fernandina was created, making Vigan the third oldest city in the country after Cebu and Manila.

But after its heydays as the

trading capital of the North, Vigan had been relegated as a municipality until Singson and Medina revived the cityhood bid in 1999.

Singson, a star witness of the impeachment trial against then President Joseph Estrada, said Vigan's cityhood would mean progress and development not only to the city but to the province as well.

Councilor Francisco Ranches said the House of Representatives approved the cityhood bill after Ilocos Sur Rep. Salacnib Bateria cited that Vigan used to be a triangle-shaped island but had since joined the mainland because of siltation.

Bateria has also embarked on a plan to desilt the two rivers surrounding Vigan.

But Ranches said the act had a tougher time in the Senate after Senate President Aquilino Pimentel Jr., author of the Local Government Code, cited the qualifications of a city.

Pimentel asked the proponents to produce documents citing that Vigan used to be a city.

Ranches said old Spanish documents were tracked down, located, translated and presented to the Senate.

The signing of the act by then Estrada sparked another controversy as it was prepared the day Singson was supposed to testify in the Senate impeachment hearing.

"He cannot do anything except to sign it. If he disapproves, *lalang magagalit ang tao sa kanya* (the people will get more angry at him)," Singson said.

Ranches said it was a triple celebration for Vigan because of its cityhood conversion, the inscription



PLEBISCITE day in Vigan, Ilocos Sur.

TOOTS SOBERANO

of Vigan's heritage district as a heritage site by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, and the ouster of Estrada.

He said the government did not choose to formally name Vigan as "The Heritage City of Vigan" or "Ciudad Fernandina" because of

name recall.

"You don't buy Ciudad Fernandina *longganisa* (sausage) but Vigan *longganisa*," he said.

Vigan is the sixth city in the Ilocos region after Dagupan, San Carlos, Urdaneta, San Fernando and Laoag.

ROUNDUP

Soldier slain in clash with NPA

CAMP MELCHOR DE LA CRUZ, Isabela—A corporal was killed and five other soldiers were wounded when New People's Army rebels and Army soldiers clashed in the mountains of Barangay Salecsec in Balbalan, Kalinga, on Monday, reports said. Killed was Cpl. Efrén Allauigan of the 21st Infantry Battalion based in Kalinga. Reports said the Army soldiers were patrolling the village when they chanced upon a group of rebels, triggering a 15-minute gunfight.

Villamor Visaya Jr., PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

Iron for poor kids

LINGAYEN, Pangasinan—The provincial government has launched an iron supplementation and deworming program for severely malnourished children. Estela Braga, acting chief of the provincial nutrition center, said 4,689 children would benefit from the program. She appealed to mothers to cooperate to help ease malnutrition in the province.

Yolanda Fuertes, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

'Jueteng' collectors arrested

BAYOMBONG, Nueva Vizcaya—Police arrested 10 suspected "jueteng" bet collectors in a raid in Barangay Bonfal East here Monday. Supt. Romeo Hilomen said they seized jueteng paraphernalia and P2,278 cash from the suspects.

Ben Moses Ebreo, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

P15M for education in N. Vizcaya

BAYOMBONG, Nueva Vizcaya—The Ford Foundation has given the provincial government at least P15 million to start its education-related projects among upland villages in the province. The grant covers the purchase of books, development of day care center facilities and training of teachers. The provincial government will build 26 day care centers in indigenous cultural communities as its project counterpart.

Ben Moses Ebreo, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

Lucena folk assail execs for inaction

LUCENA CITY—Taking a cue from Edsa II, close to 2,000 people from 33 barangays trooped to the City Hall annex in Barangay Isabang and assailed the inaction of officials on this year's proposed P285-million city budget.

The rally was held while the city council was holding its regular session. Led by 26 barangay heads and members of the Kalipunan ng mga Barangay Kagawad, the protesters denounced the alleged "backdoor scheming" of Vice Mayor Raymond Adorneo and his allies who comprise the majority in the city council.

Adorneo is the most likely opponent of Talaga in the coming mayoral election.

The demonstrators shouted "Hudas," referring to the seven council members who, they claimed, failed to act on the passage of the budget.

They are Councilors Godofredo Paller, Roderick Alcala, Salome Dato, Nicamor Pedro, Thelma Alana, Simon Aldovino and Adorneo, the presiding officer.

The council failed to pass the budget in its two previous regular sessions because the seven members were absent.

The protesters charged in a manifesto that such inaction to approve the budget "will certainly cause deleterious and serious effects and repercussions" on the programs and development plans of the city. *Delfin T. Mallari Jr. and Arnel Avila, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau*

Solon tried to bribe probers of P1.2-B infra scam—NBI

BY MICHAEL LIM UBAC AND VOLT CONTRERAS

THE NATIONAL Bureau of Investigation on Monday claimed that Catanduanes Rep. Leandro Vercelles Jr. had tried to bribe NBI agents to stop them from linking him to P1.8 billion in "ghost" infrastructure projects in his province.

A top NBI official said a man claiming to be an emissary of the Vercelles camp "delivered" a paper bag full of money in exchange for an end to the probe.

The official, who asked not to be identified, said the money was delivered to the NBI Special Task Force (STF) last month.

"The emissary told STF agents that the money came from his boss. But STF chief Max Salvador refused to accept the money and instead ordered the emissary to return it to his boss," the official added.

Salvador refused to comment on the alleged incident. He, however, confirmed that Vercelles' possible involvement was being investigated by the STF after local executives in Catanduanes asked the NBI to step into the case.

"We are still investigating the case to determine those who could be held liable for the scam. We could not yet establish the liability of Vercelles since we've just finished evaluating 10 of the 102 infrastructure projects," he said.

"Once his name (crops up), we will not hesitate to invite him for questioning to shed light on the case," he said.

Vercelles denial

Rep. Vercelles flatly denied the bribery charge in a phone interview, saying: "And so, where was the money? They can never say that unless they have the money."

He said the attempt to implicate him in the alleged P1.8 billion in ghost projects scam was a political ploy meant "to embarrass" him since he was contesting the gubernatorial post being held by Hector Sanchez, who is seeking another term.

He said the NBI was "just being used" to this end, noting that Salvador and Governor Sanchez "are very close friends."

"This Max Salvador got mad because of my request to NBI Acting Director Carlos Caabay to have the

investigation suspended until after the next elections so that it will not be tainted by any political color," the congressman said.

Vercelles also dismissed the attempt to implicate him as the source of the congressional funds used for the alleged fictitious projects.

"They were trying to implicate me because I was the one who provided the money. Well, I've been publicly claiming that I have brought in P3 billion worth of projects in Catanduanes over the nine years that I have been a congressman," he said.

"But of the P3 billion, P2 billion is for the Catanduanes Circumferential Road, which is a foreign-assisted project. So that only leaves P1 billion for the other projects. So the claim is P1.8 billion is exaggerated."

Earlier, six officials of the Department of Public Works and Highways were charged with malversation of funds and property, and falsification of public documents in connection with at least 102 "ghost" infrastructure projects in the province.

Charged before the Ombudsman were DPWH district engineer Mariano Saret; his assistant, engineer Edith Samario; project engineer Rey Biejo; monitoring engineer Elsie Ganan; engineer Octavio Tabuzo; and Amador Tejada.

INQUIRER Northern Luzon

JUN BANDAYREL, Editor ■ ROLANDO B. FERNANDEZ, Bureau Chief

Chavit: Year of the Snake is my year

(From page A1)

"I still don't know how I will celebrate my New Year. I will consult my Chinese friends—Jaime Dichaves and (Charlie) Atong Ang," he joked.

Those into historical numerology know that "21" is a very important number for ousting presidents. Then President Ferdinand Marcos declared martial law on Sept. 21, 1972. His political rival, former Sen. Benigno "Ninoy" Aquino Jr., was assassinated on Aug. 21, 1983, paving a long protest season that culminated on Feb. 21, 1986 or the start of the EDSA People Power movement.

Edsa People Power II ended Jan. 20 with the ouster of Mr. Estrada and the assumption to the presidency of Vice President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo the day after.

Incidentally, Galema the snake was bought by Singson in 1986, and it has not stopped growing. Her handlers (if we go by its name, since Galema is the daughter of Zuma, a snake god in a Filipino cartoon series in the 1970s) feed her one chicken a week.

Galema is kept in a glass cage at the Baluarte. Singson has other snakes as pets.

Asked what qualities of the Snake person he most qualifies, Singson said, "Basta lahat ng magagandang qualities (All the good qualities)."

Spotlight magnet

Chinese astrologer Sabrina Liao describes a Snake person as "a spotlight magnet who cannot be ignored."

"Peer group attention and public recognition are the least of what he expects. Yet, Snakes are never noisy or deliberately outspoken," Liao said.

Singson's revelation in October that Estrada is the "lord or all 'jueteng' lords" who ran away with as much as P500 million, started the so-called EDSA People Power II.

"Even then, I knew that Estrada would be acquitted, but I went along because of the process. But I know I will win in the end because the Year of the Snake is my year," said Singson, who was born on June 21, 1941.

It depends on how one interprets it, but Liao also said "the Snake is a nice oversexed normal human being. Determined to follow through anything he undertakes to the bitter end, the Snake detests being left in the air. He makes his decisions quickly and firmly."

The traditional impression for Snake people is that they are deep thinkers and have an uncanny intuition.

Liao also said the negative aspects of a Snake person include exaggerating and lying. "The fatal flaw in his character is, in fact, his tendency to exaggerate—in helping friends as with everything else. If he does them a favor, he becomes possessive toward them in an odd way."

"Another big flaw in a Snake's character is that he is capable of lying. White lies, true lies, whatever they call them, though he doesn't lie often, he does lie when he feels he can get away from it," Liao said.

But then Singson already said he was immune to the negative qualities of a Snake in the



ILOCOS Sur Gov. Luls "Chavit" Singson and his pet snake named Galema.

TOOTS SOBERANO

"Because you never rush into things, you are likely to have children in later years," Kwok advised the Ox in the lake.

"The trust people have placed in you over the years should be rewarded, and you will become known as a trustworthy person. If you remain true to yourself, you should end your

days respected and at peace."

Singson said: "The problem with Estrada is that he is still dreaming. *Akala niya, nasa sine pa siya* (He thought he was still doing movies)."

"It's not your movies that are bad," Singson would have told his former drinking buddy. "It's your destiny."

same way that he was immune to prosecution because he was still a state witness.

According to Chinese astrology, a Pig will never please the Snake.

Pig and Snake

President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo, incidentally, is a Pig, having been born on April 5, 1947. There will be monumental clashes between these two personalities, geomancers said.

Singson said he had no plans to play a big role in the Macapagal administration. "I don't want to be part of a new Kitchen Cabinet. *Baka masunog ulit ako* (I might get burned again)," he said.

He also said he was not very close with Ms Macapagal because they belong to different parties.

Singson's supporters in Vigan are already asking why their governor was gradually eased out of the spotlight of EDSA People Power II as the days wore on.

"During the swearing-in, the governor was nowhere to be found," said Board Member Efrén Rafanan, acknowledged as the No. 1 fan of Singson in Ilocos Sur.

Ironically, the charts also said the Snake would get very well with the Ox, Estrada's sign. Estrada was born on April 19, 1937.

That would make Estrada, according to "The Chinese Horoscopes Library Series" by Kwok Man-Ho, an "ox in the lake," one who is associated with a nail, which symbolizes steadfastness and solidity.

"You must always beware of unscrupulous characteristics, such as those of the Rat people, who will attempt to prey on your charity, rely upon your strength, and use you for their own ends. Try not to allow yourself to be exploited," Kwok said.

In case Estrada wants to know the Rats in his life, they are those born in 1913, 1925, 1937, 1949 and 1961.

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Baguio-Benguet bishop starting all over again

BY MAURICE MALANES

Baguio City

LIFE, it is said, always has a turning point. And that of Baguio-Benguet Bishop Ernesto Salgado is no exception.

Assigned in Baguio City for 13 years, Salgado will soon leave for Laoag City, a new assignment which he expects to be not easy as it would mean starting all over again.

"It is always hard to begin," he said. "But in obedience to the Holy Father, and with God's blessings, I must go and try my best."

Salgado was officially appointed bishop of the Diocese of Laoag on Dec. 7. On Jan. 30, the apostolic nuncio, Archbishop Antonio Franco, together with other members of the Catholic Bishops Conference of the Philippines, will motor to Vigan, Ilocos Sur, to finally install Salgado there.

Salgado says he hardly knows anyone in Laoag so it will be hard to start like what he experienced in 1992 when the Vicariate of Baguio was founded.

He says the vicariate then lacked priests. Like sheep without shepherds, a number of parishes had no priests to take care of parishioners.

In 1992, the then Apostolic Vicariate of the Mountain Provinces, which covered the Cordillera except Abra, was divided into three, one of which was the Vicariate of Baguio (which covers Baguio and Benguet).

The two other units were the Vicariate of Bontoc-Lagawe, which covers Ifugao and Mt. Province, and the Vicariate of Tabuk, which covers Kalinga and Apayao.

Salgado had been the apostolic vicar

of the Mt. Province Vicariate based in Baguio since December 1987.

Treading on practically new ground, Salgado faces uncertainty in his new assignment. He is not sure if the problems awaiting him in Laoag are just parishes without shepherds.

"I really don't know the situation out there, but I'll consult with the priests and communities, discuss with them what the diocese needs, and we can start from there," he said.

Fond memories

Salgado will leave Baguio with fond memories.

One thing he said he would never forget was his work with government agencies and nongovernment organizations involved with the Baguio Regreening Movement (BRM).

As chair of the BRM for over 10 years, the bishop would accompany grade school and high school students and other concerned citizens to the city's threatened watershed areas and plant trees.

He would also go with other BRM leaders and members to help clean up the polluted Balili River at the nearby La Trinidad Valley, where most of Baguio's wastes flow.

Salgado turned over the BRM leadership to Baguio Prosecutor Erdolfo Balajadia, the movement's vice chair.

Helping rehabilitate watersheds and rivers and educating people as young as grade school and preschool children about the basics of ecology are the main concerns of the BRM.

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Erap bank assets frozen

(From page A1)

it is exempt from any garnishment and attachment and not even a court order could freeze an FCDU account," Zufiga said.

This means that Estrada and members of his family can withdraw dollar deposits ranging from \$3 million to as much as \$35 million, according to sources in the banking industry.

BSP, however, said the peso deposit accounts of Estrada or any members of his family could be frozen by a court order.

The BIR order freezing Estrada's accounts takes effect immediately and can only be lifted if Estrada could prove that he paid taxes on the funds.

BIR Deputy Commissioner Lilian Hefti cited certain tax cases of Joseph Ejercito Estrada, "aka Jose Velarde and Kelvin Garcia," which are still "under investigation for the taxable years 1998 and 1999."

Hefti directed Citibank-Greenhills manager Geraldine Lopez-Nakpil not to allow Mr. Estrada and former first lady Loi Ejercito to make any transaction with the bank.

"(To) protect the interest of the government, there is need to place under constructive restraint the properties of the aforesaid taxpayer

and his wife, to prevent them from dissipating, disposing or conveying their properties with authority from this office," Hefti said.

All goods

The order covers "any and all goods, chattels or personal property, now in your (Citibank) custody, including shares of stocks and other securities, debts, credits, bank deposits/accounts, and interest in and rights to personal property" of Estrada and his wife.

The House prosecution panel in the impeachment trial of then President Estrada claimed that he, his wife and mistresses maintained accounts with Citibank and other banks, including Equitable PCI Bank.

In Equitable alone Estrada kept an account that had total deposits of P3.2 billion, according to the prosecution.

The President, however, declared a net worth of only P35 million in 1999 in apparent violation of the country's anti-graft laws, which require a public official to declare all his income.

A Senate decision on Jan. 16 blocking the opening of a sealed envelope containing documents on the P3.2-billion Velarde account triggered the four-day People Power II that ousted Estrada.

"We believe the money had to be seized and returned to the national

coffers," Egoy Bans of FDC said.

Texting

Liddy Nakpil, FDC secretary general, said they trooped to the bank yesterday morning following text messages the previous night urging people to guard against the "withdrawal of people's money from Citibank" by the Estrada family.

"We believe it would take time for bank employees to count and load bundles of money. So, we seized the opportunity to grab the time from them and bar them from releasing the money. We won," Nakpil said.

The protesters began arriving at the Citibank branch even before it opened at 9 a.m.

Louie Canlas-Austria, a housewife from Greenhills and a Citibank depositor, said she came to the rally "in a desperate attempt to block the Estradas from withdrawing the people's money."

Canlas-Austria, who stayed several nights at the Edsa Shrine after the controversial Senate vote, vowed that she would join the people in keeping vigilant until the ousted President was brought to justice.

Had the Citibank accounts not been frozen, Austria said she would have second thoughts about maintaining her account with the bank.

"It would not only be as a sign of protest, but also of frustration that the bank was not able to do anything," she said.

Minnie Rualo of the La Salle Parents-Teachers Association said she participated in the rally because she "wanted to be sure that Estrada could not use the people's money to fund a coup or to flee."

A house divided

In the Senate, senators were divided on whether the new government could freeze the assets of Estrada to prevent attempts to withdraw huge amounts of money from secret accounts.

Sen. Franklin Drilon said several senators had agreed that newly appointed Justice Secretary Hernando "Nani" Perez should quickly act to prevent the withdrawals.

Sen. Raul Roco said the Bangko Sentral could also use its moral suasion to ask banks to prevent the Estradas from withdrawing from their accounts.

"Maybe there are certain administrative measures that can be done," Roco said.

But Sen. Juan Ponce Enrile, one of the 11 senators who voted against the opening of the Velarde envelope, doubted the possibility of a freeze order.

"I doubt whether you can freeze the bank account of any taxpayer

without issuing a tax assessment. By what law, under what law can they do that?" Enrile said.

On the FCDU account, Citibank lawyer De Zufiga said it could not be examined, inquired, or looked into by any person or government official.

BSP Governor Rafael Buenaventura said he could not even ask Citibank whether Estrada maintained an FCDU account with the bank.

"They can't disclose it because they are liable for violating the Bank Secrecy Act," Buenaventura said.

People's victory

Argee Guevarra, legal counsel of the militant group Sanlakas, which led some 90 protesters who staged a picket in front of the bank, considered the freeze order a "victory of the people power revolution."

"Clearly, the Edsa revolution did not end with Estrada's ouster. But we welcome this as the first step in recovering all of Estrada's ill-gotten wealth," he said.

Guevarra also challenged the newly installed Macapagal administration to "expand the confiscation, sequestration and forfeiture to all the properties of Estrada's cronies."

Jerry Go of the Kongreso ng Mamamayang Pilipino (Kompil) II said his group would also work for

the freezing of Estrada's accounts with at least 29 other banks.

At around 12:30 p.m., the picket was lifted after the protesters were told that the bank had been served the freeze order, Bans said.

Earlier Sanlakas members held a symbolic withdrawal of the controversial Velarde account from the Equitable PCI Bank branch in Greenhills.

Carrying a giant withdrawal slip to symbolize "the people's confiscation" of the account, the protesters tried to get inside the bank but were barred by security personnel.

Members of the Couples for Christ, La Salle Brothers, Kalayaan and Barangay RJ also joined the picket.

The La Salle-Greenhills community provided the protesters sandwiches as they stayed on to bodily block the money from being brought out of the bank.

Buenaventura assured that Citibank, the country's sixth largest lender, remained stable. "I don't think this bank is vulnerable to any speculation," he said.

Citibank is a subsidiary of the Citigroup, the world's largest private financial institution.

Citibank's local unit has assets of more than P180 billion and deposits of P102 billion. *With a report from Juliet L. Javellana*

Estrada: Deposits my savings since 1985

(From page A1)

for 16 years, he has not touched that account," he said.

"Let them check. I can waive that right to secrecy as far as that account is concerned," the source quoted Estrada as saying.

The former Palace official said Estrada was very concerned that his name was again being dragged into yet another controversy for accounts that were legally opened.

"They can check the bank records. They will see that it (money) is not ill-gotten," the source said.

"The dollar then was too cheap (in 1985). It just kept earning interest," he said.

The source, however, did not say how much was the original de-

posit in 1985.

He also admitted that former first lady Luisa "Loi" Ejercito was also maintaining accounts with Citibank.

The INQUIRER yesterday tried to reach the former President by phone at his San Juan residence, but those who answered the phone said he was still resting and would not want to be bothered.

Finance Secretary Alberto Romulo said the new Macapagal administration would be working on freezing the accounts.

"My view is that as much as we can freeze, we can freeze. These are all ill-gotten. Let them prove that it's not ill-gotten," Romulo said.

"We're doing what we can to have that hold order," he said.

Romulo said that the accounts

were clearly disproportionate to the former President's income.

"Look at his (statement of) assets and liabilities," he said.

Estrada declared a net worth of P35 million in 1999.

Romulo said that the Department of Justice and the Presidential Commission on Good Government would take over the matter of freezing the assets.

He said that he was not worried about the impact of the freezing of the accounts on the banking sector.

"As I recall, the law that we passed, has exceptions," he said, referring to the Bank Secrecy Law.

"When the banking system is being used to further the commission of a crime, that is an exception to the secrecy law," he said.

"We should not allow the system

to be prostituted by the criminal and evil elements," Romulo said.

The finance secretary said that it was already "very obvious" during the impeachment trial that Estrada had ill-gotten or unexplained wealth.

Estrada, however, has not yet presented his evidence during the Senate impeachment trial, which was suspended indefinitely after the House prosecution panel resigned in protest of the Senate decision not to open an envelope containing damning evidence against Estrada.

"We have always said there should be reconciliation but with justice. You cannot ignore the laws. You have to apply the law whether they are small-time thieves or big-time thieves," Romulo said.

(From page A1)

Arriving in Malacañang last Monday brought back memories of his courtship of the daughter of President Diosdado Macapagal.

"The last time I was there was when I was still courting Gloria, some 35 years ago," he said.

Back at the Palace for the duration of his wife's incumbency, Arroyo plans to chronicle the presidency, do volunteer work for a private anti-crime group, start a campaign to adopt the Grameen bank concept and help revive the Pasig River.

He's giving up everything else, said the law graduate of Ateneo University: his practice as a trial lawyer and his interest in the family's vast real estate business.

Great wealth

Arroyo has divested his assets from companies named after his mother, like LTA Realty Corp., LTA Condominium and Lourdes T. de Arroyo Inc., JM Tuason and Benguet Corp.

Arroyo is a scion of great wealth. On his mother side, he comes from the landed Tuason clan of Negros Occidental. On his father's side, he is a direct descendant of the hacendero and local hero, Gen. Aniceto Lacson, who led the revolution against the Spanish rule in Negros Island.

Arroyo said he had placed his assets in "a blind trust with the bank for three years, which means that during that period, you cannot meddle or you cannot withdraw. It's irrevocable. After that period, they will give back all your properties to you."

Out of delicadeza, Arroyo said he would also stop practicing law.

"So that there will be no issues against me, I will stay away from politics," he said. "My wife and I talk about politics only when it concerns her organization, KGMA (Kaibigan ni Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo)."

In other words, he will stay on the sidelines, where he had chosen to stay since his wife entered politics in 1992. He promised not to meddle in his wife's administration.

Arroyo admits there was a more conscious effort to keep a low profile, compared to the time when his wife was a senator or Vice President.

"I'm always on the sidelines. I'm never in the limelight. Before, it was easier, but now, when I say anything, there are cameras and tape recorders shoved at my mouth. Besides, Gloria also asked me to maintain a low profile."

Passion

"I will just take photos. Photography is one of my passions. Those photos of Gloria in the posters (Senatorial campaign-Ed.), I was the one who took them. Even when we go abroad, I'm the one who's always bringing a camera."

Another low-profile undertaking he wants to get into is to help the Volunteers Against Crime and Corruption (VACC) headed by Dante Jimenez. He said he would help the VACC raise funds for its campaign.

"But the funds will come from private organizations and foundations, and not from the government," he stressed. He would also urge other lawyers to assist VACC in pursuing its cases.

"I can help in their fact-finding efforts in coordination with the police."

AP

'When she's down ...

Arroyo is also keen on joining the campaign against illegal drugs.

Arroyo also plans to start the concept of the Grameen Bank of Bangladesh that has been adopted in Negros Occidental.

This system allows loans for the poorest of the poor without collateral to start small businesses.

In Negros Occidental, the Grameen Bank known as Project Dungganan headed by Dr. Cecile del Castillo, has helped more than 24,000 women start small businesses.

Arroyo said he was looking at loans of P1,000 per person, which will involve five to 10 people per barangay. With the loans, Arroyo hopes to generate livelihood programs.

Arroyo also expressed his desire to continue the project of former first lady Amelita "Ming" Ramos in cleaning up the Pasig River.

"I want to continue that but I'll let Gloria run it. She's the boss. Let her administer it. I will just support it."

In private, Arroyo said that even at home, his wife was the boss.

"How can you overrule the president of the Philippines?" he joked.

"There appears to be a reversal of fortune today for the Filipino macho male but I don't mind that. Let the women shine. What men have to do is stay out of the way and support them all the way."

Nasty texting

Arroyo has not been spared from nasty text messages, warning the public that he is corrupt.

"I received the message and I appreciate it. I assure the public I am not corrupt, I have always been engaged in private business, never in government," he said.

He said he did not need to enrich himself while his wife is President because "we have always lived very simply."

Arroyo also assured that neither he nor his family members would get involved in government business.

He also belied fears that his brother, Ignacio Arroyo, known in their family as Ignacito, will have anything to do with government or its sequestered corporations.

Ignacito was in the limelight late last year after he was questioned on the purchase of a property in San Francisco that President Macapagal's critics claimed was actually her property.

The then Vice President had denied the allegation.

"Ignacito does not need to get involved in (government transactions because) he is rich on his own," Arroyo said.

"We will continue to live a simple and dignified life with none of our family (members) involved in government or any corporations associated with it," Arroyo told the INQUIRER in a telephone interview from Bacolod City.

Overwhelming

How long he can stay simple is the question.

The attention he is now getting is indeed overwhelming. In his Makati office, there's been a steady stream of people coming in since Monday.

His personal secretary, Rommel Javier, said their office was never this busy.

"We're not used to having many visitors here," Javier said. "This office has been very quiet, but since yesterday, people haven't stopped coming."

Some of the guests come all the way from Cebu, Davao and Zamboanga to congratulate the new President through her husband.

"Most of them are friends and since they can't go straight to Malacañang, they come here," Arroyo said. "Of course, they also want to tour Malacañang later on."

Another question is: How is he going to be called? First Husband? First Gentleman?

"That's the question everybody is asking. My staff calls me Boss Mike, my clients call me Atty. Arroyo or Atty. Mike. Just call me Mike."

Peso, stocks fall amid coup rumors

(From page A1)

"I doubt that a coup or any destabilization effort would prove successful because the people, the military and the police have rallied behind President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo," said Warren Chua of Mercantile Securities Corp.

"But it raises concerns, and that's being reflected in the market, aside from the fact, of course, that people are taking profits," he said.

The 30-company Philippine Stock Exchange Index dropped 45.76 points, or 2.7 percent, to close Tuesday at 1,662.30. Losers beat gainers 55 to 37, with 36 issues unchanged.

Volume turnover fell to P2.7 billion from a record P7.2 billion on Monday when the main index shot up 34 percent within minutes of the opening bell amid the euphoria over Estrada's ouster on Saturday.

At the end of the historic rally, the index was still up 255.13 points, or 17.6 percent, at 1,708.06—its highest level in nine months.

The exuberance faded after Estrada indicated he would question the legality of his replacement by Ms Macapagal, his erstwhile Vice President.

Estrada, who has not formally resigned, submitted on Monday a letter to the Senate saying he was only temporarily transferring his duties to Ms Macapagal in an acting capacity.

Erwin Balita, an analyst at Securities 2000, said the main index would likely consolidate above 1,550 as the market awaited a clearer picture of the new government's reform plans.

But Securities Specialist president Francisco Villaroman said he was not ruling out the possibility the index might still make one or two stabs at 1,800 during the period of consolidation.

"Investors are still hesitant," said Jose Yistan, an economist at Wise Securities. "They want to see definite policy that will assure them that this new administration can revive

the economy."

Businesses hope that Ms Macapagal, a 53-year-old trained economist, will be able to solve a host of economic problems, including a soaring government deficit, rising inflation and plunging investment.

The market is also waiting to hear the new government's plans for privatizing large corporations and for reviving stalled reforms, including a power sector reform bill stuck in Congress.

Experts have pointed out that the economy, one of Asia's laggards, faces many troubles that won't instantly vanish under Ms Macapagal's fresh leadership.

"Estrada so systematically messed things up it will take a long time to undo the damage," said Manish Singhai, fund manager of Alliance Capital Management.

Ms Macapagal told diplomats Tuesday that the economy was closely intertwined with the future of the country's democracy.

"During my administration I

hope to invigorate the market in order to deepen democracy. Democracy and the market will be the guiding principles of my domestic and foreign policies," she said.

She said the country would "continue to be friendly to both domestic and foreign direct investment."

Ms Macapagal vowed to strengthen the country's global competitiveness as she outlined an economically oriented foreign affairs strategy.

The peso ended trading slightly higher against the dollar, closing at 49.20 on the Philippine Dealing System compared to 49.30 on Monday.

The peso's initial losses were attributed to strong demand for dollars from companies that had postponed purchases because of a stronger US currency.

The peso traded at about 54 to the dollar early Friday before soaring to 47.50 later in the day after Estrada's military commanders withdrew their support. *With reports from AP and AFP*

Creation of cloned human embryos OKd

(From page A1)

can turn into nearly every cell type in the body.

Like all other embryos used in research, the clones created under the new regulations would have to be destroyed after 14 days, and the creation of babies by cloning would remain outlawed.

The change passed late Monday after an amendment that would have delayed it was defeated. The new regulations take effect Jan. 31.

Before the measure won approval, an impassioned debate on the topic ran on into the night.

Many lords said they were concerned that ethical worries were being sidelined in the rush to be at the forefront of medical research.

They proposed an amendment that would have withheld approval of the government's proposal until after the ethical, moral and scientific issues surrounding the research had been studied by a special committee.

The amendment was defeated by 212 votes to 92, with the lords saying the ethical issues should be de-

bated by a special committee later. That cleared the way for the cloning measure's approval.

Fertility expert Lord Winston, who chairs the House of Lords' science and technology committee, spoke out strongly in favor of embryo research.

"There is no doubt that on your vote, my lords, depends whether some people in the near future get the treatment which might save them from disease or, even worse, death," he told the lords.

The change relaxes the rules that limit medical research on human embryos under the 1990 Human Fertilization and Embryology Act, which permitted research on donated embryos only for strictly limited purposes, including studies on infertility and the detection of birth defects.

Expanded research

Regulators will now be allowed to expand the types of research permitted under the act so scientists could use embryos to investigate the potential of stem cells.

Experts say the expansion of research can revolutionize medicine, offering the possibility of trans-

plants that would prevent or cure scores of illnesses from Parkinson's disease to diabetes.

The Human Fertilization and Embryology Authority, which polices embryo research, has promised to consider cloning applications for some types of research, such as stem cell experiments.

Those would inevitably involve cloning of embryos, because the goal is to treat patients with perfectly matching tissue transplants.

Peers heard during the debate that it could take up to a year before the first research permits were granted and that a breakthrough in the field could take a further 10 years.

An embryo is essentially a ball of stem cells that evolves into a fetus when the stem cells start specializing to create a nervous system, spine and other features—at about 14 days.

Transplant

Scientists hope that by extracting the stem cells from the embryo when it is three or four days old, their growth can be directed in a lab to become any desired cell or tissue type for transplant.

Sports on TV Compiled by Lorenzo Manguiat

TENNIS: Australian Open - Men's and Women's Quarterfinals at 8 a.m. - 2 p.m. (r- 2 p.m.) on Sky Cable 17
BASKETBALL: NBA - LA Lakers vs Seattle SuperSonics at 9 a.m. (r- 8 p.m.) on ESPN
 US NCAA - Pittsburgh Panthers vs Providence Friars at 1 p.m. (d) and Kentucky Wildcats vs Alabama Crimson Tide tomorrow at 2 a.m. on ESPN on ESPN
GOLF: PGA.Com Classic, First Round at 4 p.m. on ESPN
 LPGA Arch Wireless Championship, Final Round at 11 p.m. on Star Sports

SPORTS

AL S. MENDOZA, Editor EDWIN M. VILLANUEVA, Assistant Editor

Sorry

MANOLO Iñigo's "Clean Living" column will appear tomorrow, space permitting.

BATANG PINOY GAMES

Cagayan bet bags 1st gold medal

By JUNE NAVARRO

GMA invited to Bill Shaw golf

THE SPANKING new clubhouse of Wack Wack will have its soft opening in time for the 12th Bill Shaw Memorial Golf Classic, the club's annual member-guest invitational, on Jan. 26-27.

The event will be participated in by no less than 300 golfers, including top amateurs, business tycoons and corporate bigwigs.



ARROYO

affair.

According to sports and games vice chair Bones Floro, there are 160 teams so far in the entry list of the event which has Golfpro, Tanduay Distillery, Citigold Priority Banking and Omega as major sponsors.

The hole sponsors are PCSO, DBP, William Shaw Foundation, Unilever, Ms. Saigon, Amanpulo, Discovery Suites, Cong. Gilberto Duavit, Philippine Sports Commission, Pacsports, GG&A Clubshares, Philippine Junior Golf Federation, Pyramid Construction, Kameraworld, Fortune Tobacco, Red Ribbon, Asia Brewery, Citra Metro Tollways, Samsung, Fisherman's Friend, Alternative Beverage, K-

Swiss, Fort Bonifacio Dev't Corp., Clear Blue and EuroAsia Marble & Granite.

Topping the hole-in-one prizes are Echo Verso cars from Toyota Otis and Toyota Motors Phils. Trips to US courtesy of Northwest, a motorcycle from Kymco and a golf set from Parform/House of Kangaroo are also up for grabs.

Among the interesting pairs are Mayor Ben Abalos, the club president who's teaming up with son Jon Jon; Cosco Oben, who has brother-in-law Anthony Nazareno as his partner; Marlon Dizon and his spin doctor Eduardo Arandia; and Floro who will partner with his father, Dave.

The new clubhouse will be used for the opening cocktails tomorrow and the awarding ceremonies on Saturday, Jan. 26.

STA. CRUZ, Laguna—Laguna swept all cycling events but a long jump artist from Cagayan Province stole the thunder yesterday from the defending overall champion in the Batang Pinoy Games at the San Luis Sports Complex here.

Nimfa Loremas, tipped to follow provincemate Lerma Bulautian's footsteps, captured the first gold medal of the meet after a record-shattering 4.59-meter effort on her third try to somehow eclipse the four-gold haul of host Laguna.

The 12-year-old sixth-grader from Catawyan Elementary School in Lallo South District, Cagayan, erased the old mark of 4.32m set by La Union's Jane Fregillana in the event's initial staging in Bacolod.

"She has the makings of a Lerma Bulautian or even an Elma Muros-Posadas," said Loremas' coach, Salvador Baquirin.

Her mark bested Isabela's Maria Secorata (4.46m) and Sultan Kudarat's Gebbie Gumbal (4.32m), who settled for silver and bronze, respectively.

Crowned as king of the pool two years back, Laguna trekked on unfamiliar territory as the host flashed its might in cycling by snaring all four gold medals at stake.

Jerome Camarao toppled the field in the two-kilometer, 9-year-old boys' bike motocross, seizing Laguna's first gold in five minutes and 48 seconds.

Elmer Bryan del Moro followed suit after breaking the tape in 6.37 minutes in the three-kilometer 7-9-year-old boys' mountain bike competition, while provincemate Kenneth Alcaraz topped the boys' six-km 10-12 BMX in 12.15 minutes.

Riman Ricol capped Laguna's exploits with a 16.06 finish in the seven-kilometer 10-12 mountain bike race for boys.

Meanwhile, two more record-breaking feats provided some luster in the twice-shelved meet. Shot putter Eskak Mashod of Maguindanao and baseball thrower Helen Embuda of Zamboanga pulled off their feats in runaway fashion.

Hampered by his impaired right eye vision, the 12-year-old Mashod heaved 11.19 meters to make up for his deficiency and smash the old standard of Modesto Makiling (10.72 meters) in 1999.



BAREFOOT Maria Secorata of Isabela leaps to a silver-medal finish.

ROMY HOMILADA

Agassi vs Rafter in semis

MELBOURNE, Australia—Andre Agassi has every weapon in the tennis arsenal and command of them all. Todd Martin was only the latest to find that out.

On match point, Martin hit a good angle volley. Agassi chased it down, blasted a shot that Martin could only block back, and then lobbed over him.

With his 7-5, 6-3, 6-4 victory Tuesday, the defending champion was in the Australian Open semifinals—and without Pete Sampras to worry about.

Last year, Agassi's come-from-behind, five-set victory over Sampras in the semifinals was the supreme showdown of the Australian. This time, Martin knocked out Sampras in the fourth round, ending a 13-match losing streak against him.

Agassi next faces two-time US Open

champion and 12th seed Patrick Rafter—the local favorite—who outlasted No. 14 seed Dominik Hrbaty of the Slovak Republic, 6-2, 6-7 (4-7), 7-5, 6-0.

On the women's side, No. 12 Jennifer Capriati rallied from 2-4 in the second set and reached the semifinals here for the second straight year with a 5-7, 6-4, 6-3 victory over four-time Australian Open champion Monica Seles.

In a rematch of one of last year's semifinals, she now faces defending champion Lindsay Davenport, who beat No. 8 Anna Kournikova 6-4, 6-2.

Kournikova, in a Grand Slam quarterfinal for the first time since reaching the semifinals at Wimbledon in 1997, had some chances but slipped into errors.

Davenport said Kournikova hits very hard

and flat, and "doesn't have a huge margin for error." If she's off target, "sometimes you get a lot of free points."

Davenport, the No. 2 seed, was called several times for foot faults, but said it didn't hurt her in the outcome.

Agassi interrupted his match briefly to catch a bug near the baseline and throw it off court. Martin, trailing 30-40 and 1-2 in the final set, waited out the distraction and then served an ace.

He then held serve and, three games later, broke Agassi for a 4-3 lead. But Agassi broke right back and went on to win.

"I put on a good front," Agassi said of his mercy toward the bug.

His tennis, meanwhile, "feels pretty good. I've gotten better as the tournament has gone on," the No. 6 seed said.

Case vs PSC dismissed

THE OFFICE of the Ombudsman has dismissed the administrative complaint filed by former sports commissioner Teresita Abundo against Philippine Sports Commission chair Carlos Tuason and commissioners Monico Puentevela (resigned), Leonardo Celles and Ricardo Garcia for dishonesty.

A copy of the decision approved by Ombudsman Aniano Desierto was faxed to the INQUIRER yesterday. It noted that the case was dismissed "for lack of substantial evidence."

Director Mary Susan Guillermo of the Administrative Adjudication Bureau reviewed the complaint and was recommended for approval by assistant Ombudsman Abelardo Aportadera Jr.

Welcoat clips Montaña, gains PBL finals playoff

By DENNIS U. EROA

JOJO Manalo capped a sizzling showing with the game-winning basket as Welcoat Paints slipped past Montaña Jewels, 59-58, securing at least a playoff for the second finals slot in the PBL Challenge Cup at the

Makati Coliseum.

Welcoat's nine-game winning streak seemed in jeopardy as a swarming Montaña defense forced slotman Yancy de Ocampo to take a wayward shot near the half court.

To the dismay of the Jewels, the six-foot-one Manalo grabbed the rebound

and calmly banked a shot as the final buzzer ended.

It was the 10th straight win for the Paintmasters, while the Jewels dropped to an even 7-7 card.

Later in the night, Chester Tolomia and Gilbert Malabanan starred as Shark Energy Drink virtually grabbed the first

finals slot with an 81-59 win over Ateneo-Pioneer. Shark upped its mark to 11-2.

Amateur basketball player of the year Ren Ren Ritualo bannered Welcoat's attack in the first three quarters as he scored 20 points before Manalo took charge.

Welcoat 59—Ritualo 20, Manalo 19, Villoria 6, De Ocampo 6, Canlas 4, Sison 2, Tan 2, Suba 0, Zamora 0, Patrimonio 0.

Montaña 58—Gottenbos 24, Torrente 7, Lao 6, Medina 6, Mesina 5, Saniel 4, Misola 4, Latoreno 2, Dimaunahan 0.

Quarters: 14-12, 27-31, 44-47, 59-58

Paras, Hawkins ink rich contracts

BENJIE Paras and Bong Hawkins yesterday inked expected multimillion-peso contracts with their respective teams while Danny Idefonso is set to sign with his club within the week.

Paras agreed to a five-year contract with Shell Velocity that would earn him at least P25 million, while Hawkins signed a four-year deal worth P20 million with Tanduay Gold.

That left Idefonso as the only unsigned PBA superstar with just five days left before the league opens its 2001 season.

William Ong, Idefonso's manager, told the INQUIRER that they are still dealing with San Miguel Beer management for a two-year contract instead of three years as earlier reported.

Shell coach Perry Ronquillo ex-

pressed high hopes that the Zoom Masters would do better this season compared last year when they finished with the worst win-loss standing.

Still, Paras' comeback, along with the entry of rookie Michael Hrabak and new acquisition Rob Wainwright, is a big boost for the franchise which won back-to-back titles three years ago.

Marc Anthony Reyes

Sy pledges P1M for RP teams

HE DIDN'T even bother to sit on the presidential table, but at the end, Dioceldo Sy, chair of the PBL, had the last say in an otherwise lively, monumental gathering of the country's best basketball minds at the Holiday Inn.

Sy, through youthful Commissioner Chino Trinidad, yesterday stole

the show in the weekly PSA Forum, pledging a P1-million seed money to start the ball rolling for the funding of future national teams in international competitions.

"This is one way of saying that the PBL is more than willing to spearhead the fundraising for our national team," Sy told sportswriters. D. Erosa

Saludo

While most of those who graced the stage during the Edsa Dos Revolution have had their fill of glad-handing and beso-besos, many of those who weren't there, heroes just the same, deserve as much of this nation's gratitude if not more. One such man is an enigma, cloaked in the shadows of backroom maneuver, a master tactician who danced a dangerous pirouette between the extreme left and the extreme right. His name has barely been mentioned, vaguely referred to in the shortest of media snippets. Yet his role was much larger than even he would be willing to admit.

When the final story of Edsa Dos is written, he will probably be given some respect, albeit grudgingly, a quick short day in the sun. We doubt if he would even be inclined to take the slightest bow. We are certain that in his heart, he knows he stood up to be counted—when it mattered the most. For those of us who know him, he is a true unsung hero.

Kuya Peping Cojuangco, saludo po kami.

Remora

The remora are scavenger fish that attach themselves to larger predators such as sharks by means of suckers. They not only get their daily feed from the remains of the hunt but also manage free rides on the backs of their host as they scrounge for the next meal.

The remora remind me of the racing clubs. With reference to our last article, we made mention that the Marho staged more stakes races (6) than PRCI and MJCI put together (5), while the novato organization, Philtobo, provided more stakes monies, than either of the two clubs (P2.6 MM by Philtobo, P1.3 MM by MJCI and P626K by PRCI).

Combine the prize monies put up by these two horse owners organizations (P5.6MM and P2.6MM from Marho and Philtobo respectively), add the P19MM provided by the Philracom, and you can pretty much tell who have been laughing gleefully to the bank week-in, week-out. The clubs gross P5MM to P6MM in additional sales

WHAT CAN I SAY

Bebo Quiros



per stakes race day and earn P400K to P500K in the process. Added revenues to the clubs due to a stakes race program amounted from P13MM to P16MM for racing year 2000.

Obviously the clubs are getting a free ride just like the remora. One might think that some of this added largesse could be plowed back into the industry via additional stakes races. At the very least, better toilet facilities so that guests wouldn't need to clothespin their noses. Or better drainage along the canals that snake through the odoriferous maze of the stable areas.

Heck, who really cares? MJCI and PRCI will pack their bags as soon as the real estate market perks up and some other franchise holder goes on an ego trip. The racing industry is on a very short-term leash here.

Biting the dust

The very pretty Dimple Samson managed to do what a slewful of other young ladies had been wanting to do over the last twenty years that I've known him. Yes, dear friends, Jason Lim finally bit the dust, exchanging forefolds with the seemingly fragile Dimple. Not to let appearances fool us, Butch Mamon gleefully warned - Dimple is definitely in charge. So too chimed Andrew Sanchez, Mon Balatbat, Eric Pineda and Marfo Mamon, as well as their respective spouses, with whom we shared a table at the wedding receptions of Mr. & Mrs. Jason Lim at the Grand Ballroom of the New World Hotel, last Friday, 19 January 2001. Also in attendance were Putch Puyat (ninong), Jose Mari Franco and Myther Bunag - Marho stalwarts all.

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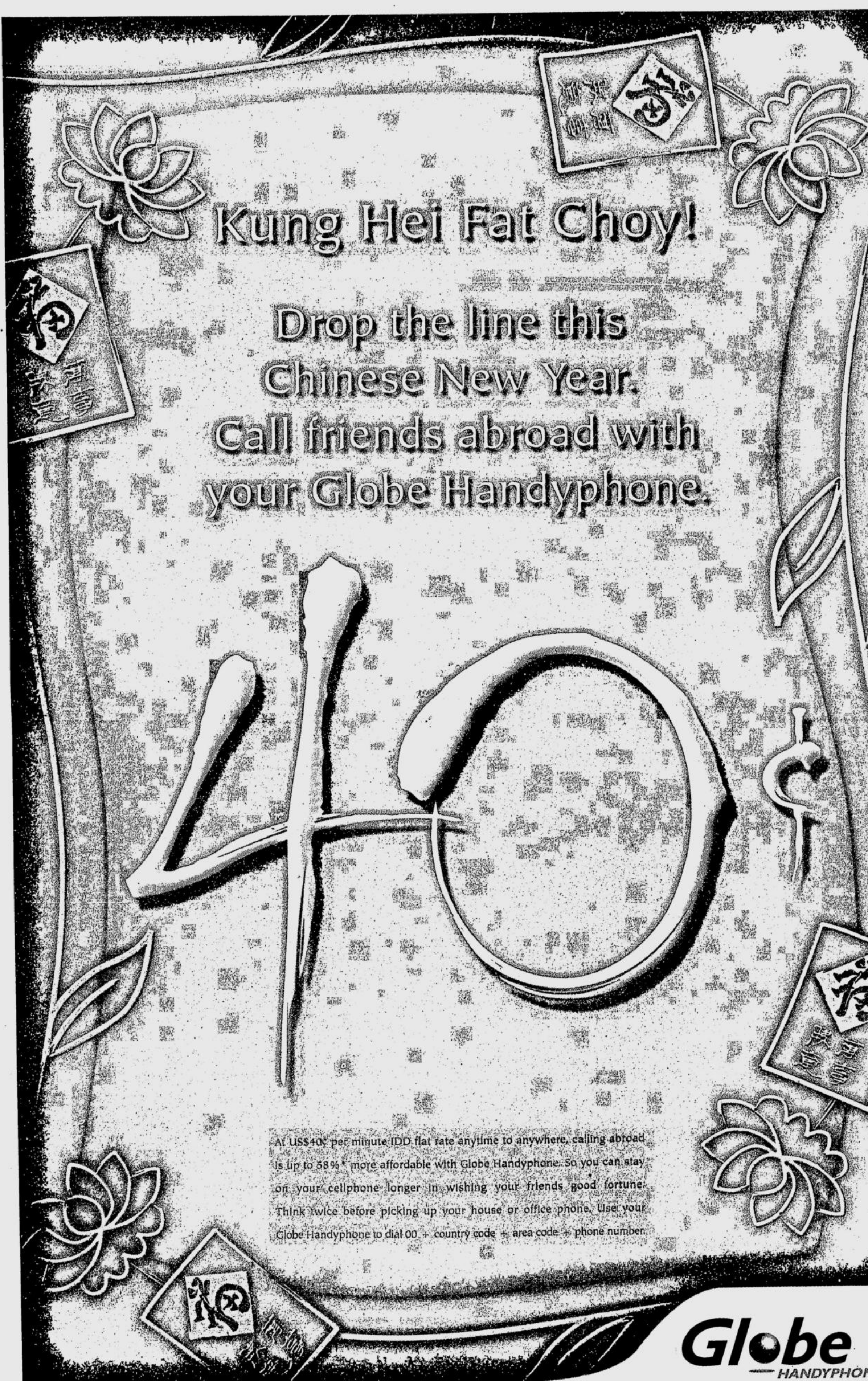
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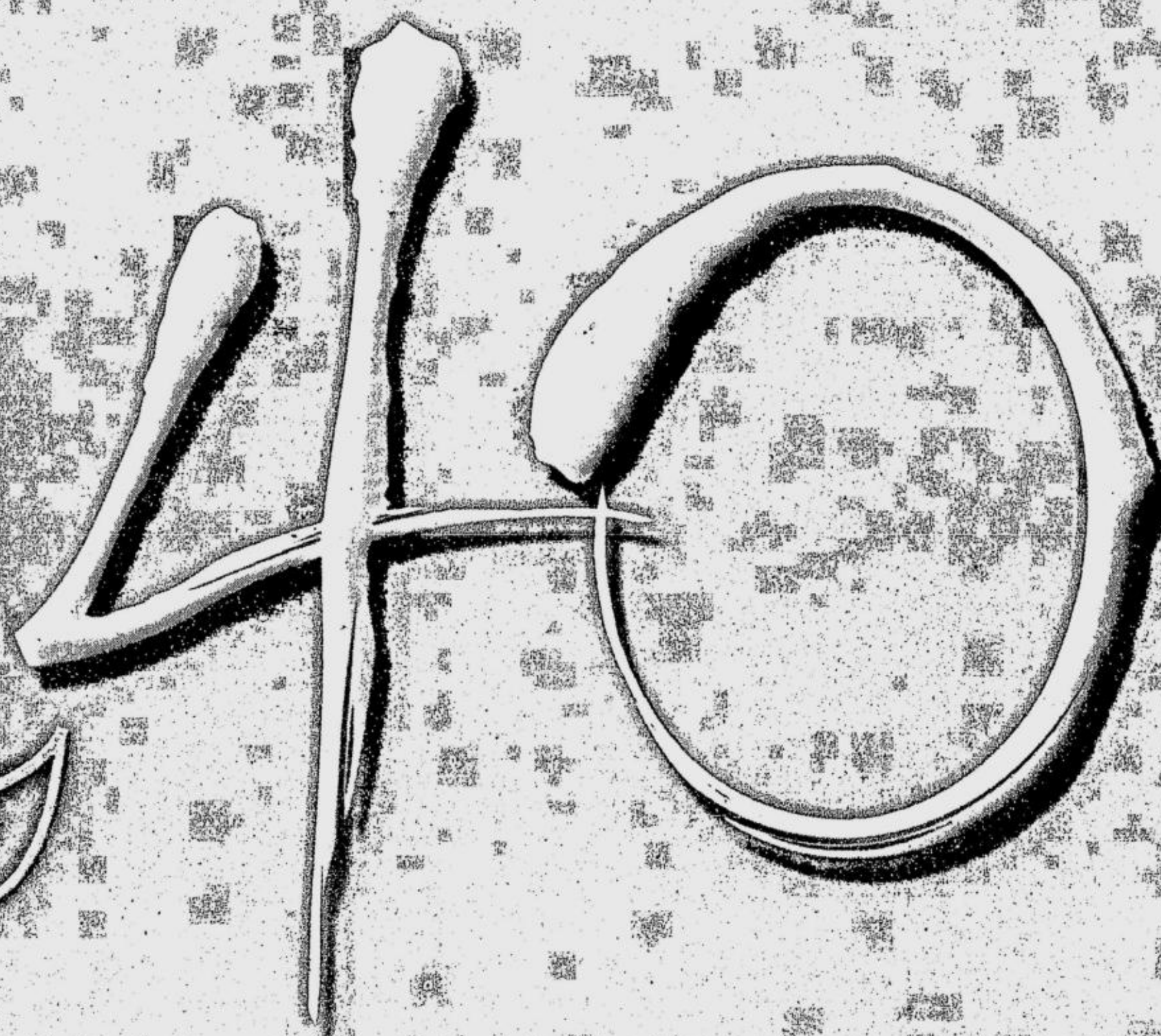
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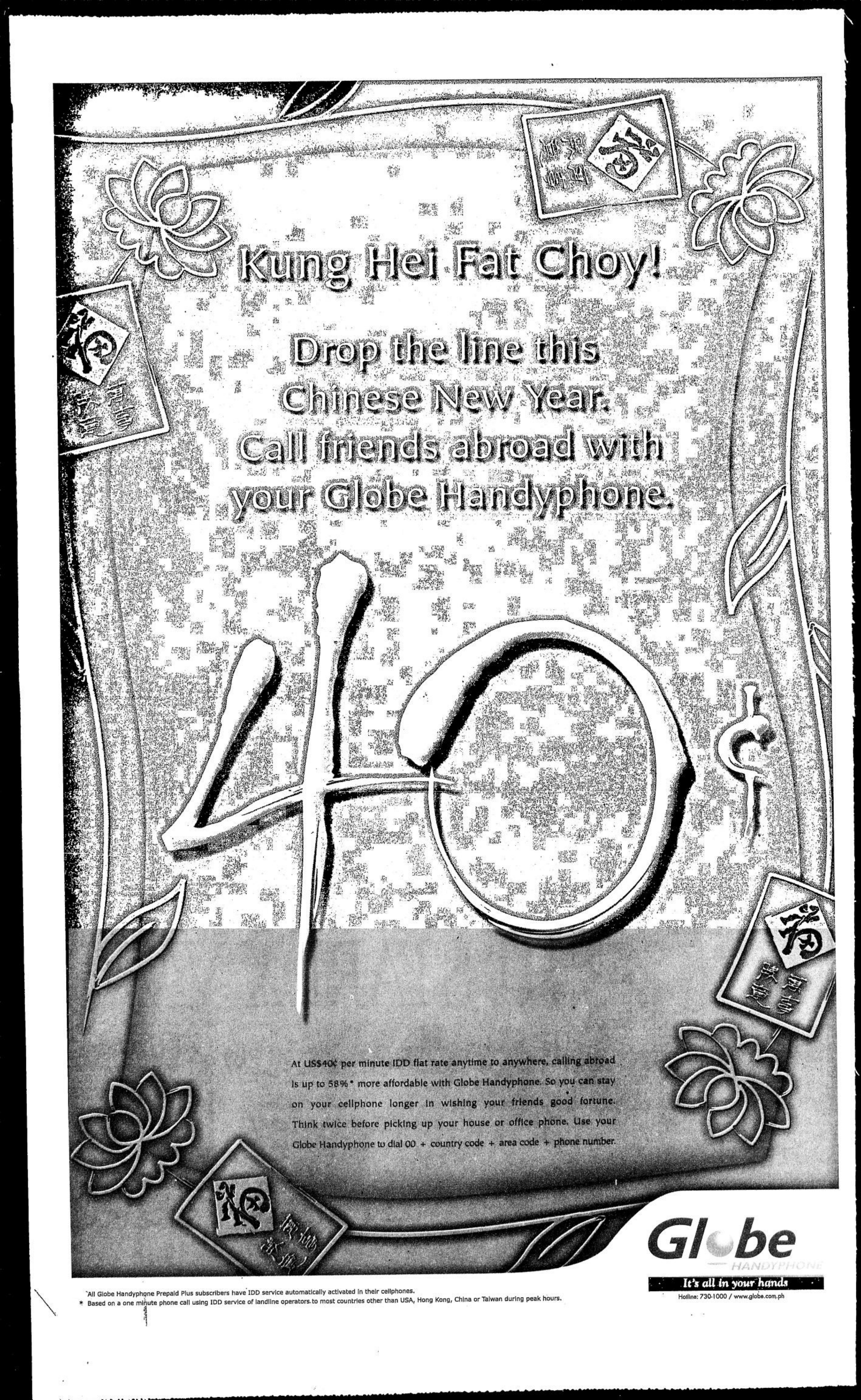
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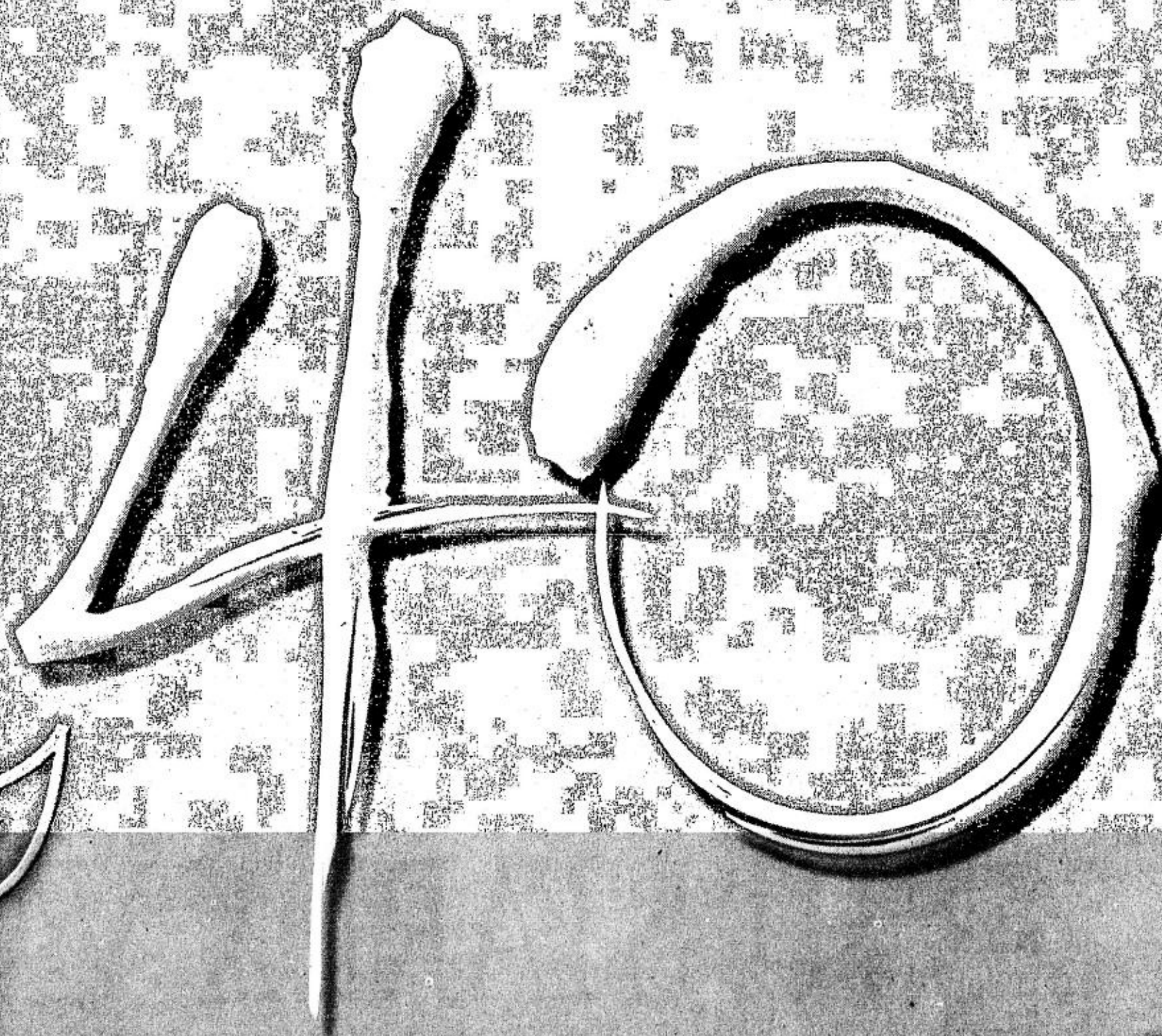
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METRO

LOUIE C. CAMINO, Editor

QC 17-year-old boy dies
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Nora Aunor gets death threats

BY ANDREA TRINIDAD-
 ECHAVEZ

AFTER turning her back on her erstwhile friend, ousted President Joseph Estrada, movie superstar Nora Aunor got death threats from alleged Estrada loyalists who accused her of sowing dissent among her movie industry colleagues.

Because of the alleged threats, members of Migrante International,

Kilusang Mayo Uno and other militant groups took turns in giving Aunor round-the-clock security.

Aunor is said to have been an on and off lover of the former president, who is himself a former movie actor.

The groups yesterday said the death threats started coming shortly after Estrada stepped down from his post early Saturday afternoon following the four-day People Power 2.

"They blamed her for the discord in the movie industry," Poe Gratela of Migrante told the INQUIRER in a phone interview. "They said that because of what she did, the once

closely knit industry suddenly became a house divided."

Gratela said that starting Saturday, Aunor noticed "suspicious looking men" near her residence on Balete Drive in New Manila, Quezon City.

She also reportedly got calls from some of her show business friends who told her to be careful since certain pro-Estrada groups were planning to storm her residence.

"Some of her friends warned her that Estrada loyalists were plotting against her and were meeting right

inside Estrada's residence on Polk Street," Gratela said, referring to the former president's private home in Greenhills, San Juan.

"We feel it is our responsibility (to protect her) because it was our group that coordinated with her when she decided to come out and call for Estrada's resignation," Gratela said.

Aunor vigorously campaigned for Estrada during the 1998 presidential elections.

Last Wednesday, the first day of People Power 2 that ended the presidency of Estrada, Aunor announced

she was withdrawing support for Estrada and called for his resignation.

In a news conference on that day, Aunor made shocking revelations about Estrada, including how he would beat up anybody he detested.

Aunor's announcement stunned people inside and outside the movie industry.

Two days after Aunor's call, members of Estrada's Cabinet resigned from their posts or withdrew support for him, among them Armed Forces Chief of Staff Angelo Reyes and Defense Secretary Orlando Mercado.



AUNOR



RED-LETTER DAY

DENNIS SABANGAN

A day before the start of the festivities ushering in the Year of the Snake, 'lucky trees' are still selling for P300 each in Manila's Chinatown in Binondo.

Atienza vows to back GMA

BY JEROME
 ANING



ATIENZA

AFTER leftist groups called on voters not to reelect him for being "uncooperative" during the anti-Estrada protests, Manila Mayor Lito Atienza yesterday said he is throwing his full support behind the Macapagal administration.

"Of course, we are supporting our new government," Atienza told reporters in Binondo during simple rites heralding the Chinese Lunar New Year.

"At this point, we need to help one another so that our economy will prosper and we can help find solutions to the problems of our country and city," he added. "Let us all work together now for our country's recovery."

Atienza, a staunch political ally of ousted President Estrada, said he has yet to speak with the new President. But he said he would focus more attention on local affairs during the remaining four months of his term.

Giving jobs to the city's unemployed is his priority, he said.

He met with businessmen and leaders from the city's Chinatown to solicit their support for his administration.

Organizers of the militant Kilusang Mayo Uno (KMU) on Monday reviled Atienza for allegedly restricting their movements in the city, especially when they try to obtain rally permits.

In a phone interview, the mayor's spokesperson Jackie Reyes said the KMU and other groups may have misunderstood Atienza's intentions when he could not act on requests for rally permits.

ATIENZA VOWS/ A20

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I did not leave Jinggoy-Bong

MOVIE star and Cavite Gov. Ramon "Bong" Revilla Jr. yesterday said that he never left the Lakas-NUCD party and that he did not turn his back on his close friend San Juan Mayor Jinggoy Estrada, son of the ousted President.

Revilla yesterday made the explanation amid rumors that he bolted from the party after he joined the people who gathered at the Edsa Shrine to call for the resignation of President Estrada.

He joined Edsa 2 because "it was the right thing to do," he said in a statement.

Revilla, Lakas-NUCD chair in Cavite, is a son of Sen. Ramon Revilla, one of the 11 senators who

voted against the opening of a sealed envelop said to contain damning evidence against Estrada.

Revilla said he "did not have any reason" to turn his back on the San Juan mayor.

The Cavite official said he wanted to squelch rumors that question his "integrity and loyalty as party man and friend." He said the rumors apparently came from his "political enemies."

He said he has always been with Lakas-NUCD since he started his political career in 1992 when he ran for vice governor of Cavite.

"Jinggoy was well aware of this," he said. "He has been a friend, along with Daboy (Rudy Fernandez) and Ipe (Phillip Salvador), long before

politics entered my mind.

"In 1998 I ran and won overwhelmingly as Cavite governor under Lakas-NUCD. What reason do I have to abandon my party?"

He said he went to Edsa "for love of country."

"In fact," he said, "many members of the film industry, such as Nora Aunor, similarly made their stand and joined Edsa."

The action star said it was still early to talk about politics even as he accused his political rivals of being "so desperate that they are resorting to all the dirty tricks they could think of."

He said there's a lot of work to do and things to take care of that were left hanging.

Teener nabbed for girl's rape

PARAÑAQUE police on Monday arrested a teenager for allegedly raping a 4-year-old girl.

Arrested was Ronierick Montanes, 18, an out-of-school youth and a resident of Malugay Street, Barangay San Martin de Porres, Parañaque, said SPO3 Odeco Cariño.

Police arrested the young man at his residence at about 8 p.m. Mon-

day after the girl's mother went to the police headquarters to file a complaint against him a few hours earlier.

The mother explained that she usually left her daughter with the suspect's mother Ramonita whenever she went to work.

On Monday she had arrived home and collected her daughter from the suspect's mother. When

they got home, she noticed that her daughter looked agitated and was squirming in pain, she said.

She examined the girl and found the child's private parts were swollen, she said. The child said the young man had done things to her.

Police said the girl would have to be examined by a doctor while they are preparing rape charges against the young man.

Alcun Papa

Fianza 'went overboard,' say Naia officials

GEN. Florencio Fianza, the former traffic czar, has come under fire for allegedly issuing orders to officials at the Ninoy Aquino International Airport even before his appointment in the new Macapagal administration became official.

Fianza called airport, aviation and immigration officials as early as dawn on Saturday to inform them that the Macapagal administration had designated him the airport coordinator, highly placed sources said on Monday.

"He gave the impression that he was

handpicked by the new administration to become the new general manager of the airport," the sources said.

In his calls, Fianza allegedly instructed the officials to help him enforce President Macapagal's instructions to stop former President Joseph Estrada, his family and his cronies from flying out of the country, and to seize huge amounts of money in their possession, the sources said.

He allegedly even asked an aviation official if he could deploy his own men to the airport control tower in order to monitor the flights of Estrada and his

family and cronies, but he was rebuffed, with the aviation official telling him that only licensed controllers are allowed in the tower.

Eventually, one of his men was allowed to enter the tower but only after being disarmed.

"For an official whose appointment has yet to be announced, he certainly went overboard," said one official, who asked not to be identified.

One official, however, came to Fianza's defense, saying the general "did not issue orders but only made requests."

TJ Burgonio

Man mauls boy, 12

A PLAYGROUND in Quezon City turned into hell for a 12-year-old boy after a neighborhood toughie 10 years his senior kicked, dragged and beat him up with brass knuckles while he was playing Monday afternoon.

The boy, a resident of Barangay Bagbag, Novaliches, Quezon City, vomited blood after his ordeal in the hands of Ronilo Dizon, alias Eloy, of Gold Key compound, Barangay Bagbag, also in Novaliches, said investigator SPO1 Efrén Sobrepeña.

The boy had bruises all over the body, a blackened right eye and a big cut above it. His chest was swollen while his feet had several cuts after Dizon dragged him through the Remarville playground in Barangay Bagbag, Sobrepeña said.

The investigator said the boy was playing with girl friends when an angry Dizon appeared at about 3:30 p.m. Monday.

"There was a fraternity rumble earlier that day in the neighborhood and Eloy asked the boy if he was a member of one of the street fraternities," Sobrepeña said.

The boy denied knowing anything about street gangs and this allegedly made Dizon even more infuriated.

Dizon, who was wearing brass knuckles, began beating the boy all over the body, Sobrepeña said.

"The boy must have thrown up blood because Eloy punched him on the chest with the brass knuckles," the investigator said. "The boy was frail looking."

He said Dizon then dragged the boy around even while he was crying for mercy and his friends were pleading with Dizon.

The suspect did let the boy go but only after he took the boy's wallet and P200, Sobrepeña said.

Dizon also kicked the boy several times before escaping, Sobrepeña added.

The boy's mother brought him to the Quezon City General Hospital, where doctors are closely watching his condition.

Sobrepeña said police are hunting down the suspect, who faces charges of robbery, physical injuries, and child abuse.

Philip C. Tubeza

Arevalo, 77

FORMER US Navy man Artemio Tiongkiao Arevalo died of a lingering illness on Tuesday, Jan. 23. He was 77.

He left behind children Susan, Eddie, Timmy, Michelle and Princess. His remains lie in state at the family residence in Barangay Alapan, Imus, Cavite.

The President as a doll

I HAVE a favorite picture of Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo. It was an old one, taken long before the new President of the Philippines changed to that famous Nora Aunor look.

It was Gloria, daughter of President Diosdado Macapagal, in a lace graduation dress.

In that old picture, Gloria, dusky and clear-eyed, perfectly fitted her role as daughter of the late Cong Dadong, popularly known as the Poor Man of Lubao.

Compared to the composed, petite Gloria we have as our new leader, the quiet schoolgirl in that old photo could pale as an ugly duckling.

Yes, President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo is a doll compared to that girl I first saw in the pages of the Kislap Graphic magazine.

But what I truly loved in that old Gloria of past many summers was her glowing farm-girl innocence.

She appeared firm and solid. She was no soft doll of a girl.

Repeat: Ms Macapagal was mannequin-pretty when she took her oath of office before Chief Justice Hilario Davide at Edsa on Saturday.

At Malacañang on her first day in office last Monday, Gloria, lovely and resplendent in a smart two-piece brown attire, talked fondly and longed for the old days when she was her father's small, innocent daughter. She spoke slowly, clearly. She vowed to be just one good president. She explained she had no delusions of greatness.

She was young-faced, trim, looking fit and raring to buckle down to work.

However, I noticed something was missing. Gloria did not appear solidly planted on her feet, unlike in that old picture of hers.

Maybe it was the hangover of her Cinderella-like rise to the presidency.

The events that swept her to the top had been too swift, dizzying.

Anyways, as you very well know, Gloria, unlike Cory Aquino, was not

BARE EYE

Recah Trinidad



a unanimous choice of the multitude that again converged and swirled at Edsa to depose another hated leader.

In fact, many people who wanted Erap Estrada out had been reluctant to march and join the street protest because they did not like the idea of Gloria as president.

Naturally, after only her first day in office, there were charges that Gloria could still be dazed and giddy when she filled in several vital Cabinet positions.

There were also suggestions Gloria should have at least been allowed to gather her wits before she was made to finalize the government assignments.

Out there at Edsa on Saturday, her inaugural speech was interrupted several times by joyous, thankful applause.

The most astounding part, of course, came when she declared her loathing for traditional politics, which she branded as the root of social and economic inequities in the country.

She singled out the urgent need to outgrow the politics of patronage and personality in order to achieve genuine reforms.

But hold it. The trend and complexion alone of the initial government assignments she had made seemed to run counter to her avowed goal to put an end to traditional politics in the Philippines.

In fact, before the resonance of her inaugural speech could fade, doubts were already being raised on how she could start with her crusade against the evils of old politics in the country.

Truth is that there was hardly anything revolutionary in the vital assignments.

No need to name names. Practically all the appointments smacked of that stinking politics of patronage.

Look, protested one tough Erap basher, Gloria was not even supposed to pay a debt of gratitude to any bankroller like, say, Lucio Tan or Atong Ang.

She did not have to solicit enormous campaign funds for this one.

But, this protester added, the new appointments clearly pointed back to an old game of accommodation.

Remember, he said, how Gloria had to take the sidelines and repair her wet smile after she was hit left and right for visibly salivating for power.

Those pictures of Gloria, after she deserted her neutral stand and joined in the call for Erap Estrada to resign, did betray her appetite for power.

In fairness to Ms Macapagal, though, she had refused to be sworn in as the next president for fear that the move might be unconstitutional.

That initial refusal clearly bared Gloria has some of the in-born stuff she had inherited from her late father.

Unfortunately, in assigning key personnel to her Cabinet and other vital government posts, the new President also succeeded in fueling suspicions that she herself had tried to play games. Or her very hands could have been tied.

Nothing truly wrong if Gloria sincerely felt that the staff she had been building would truly fit her avowed goals and programs.

But President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo must be tipped on a widespread fear that she could be a victim and plaything of power brokers masquerading as volunteers and supporters.

If she plays it too nice and pretty to those who had helped her up there, Gloria, and all of us again for that matter, could end up in an even bigger mess.

Cong Dadong's daughter must beware. She could become a toy-doll President.

QC 17-year-old boy dies from gunshot: suicide or murder?

DIONISIO Navarro, 17, did not reach the hospital alive after his mother found him bleeding from a gunshot wound in the chest in their Quezon City home Monday night.

But because the boy's family was allegedly not cooperating with investigators, the Central Police District (CPD) is not sure if Navarro's death was suicide or murder.

Navarro's housemates at 15 Mercury Ave. in Marris Village, Barangay Culiat, Quezon City, were rattled Monday night after they heard a gunshot from his bedroom, said SPO4 Rafael de Peralta, CPD's Criminal Investigation Unit desk officer.

De Peralta said the gunshot came at 7:05 p.m.

The boy's mother, Maria Lourdes,

rushed to Dionisio's room but she found the door locked.

She called her housemaids and, together, they forced open the door to her son's room.

De Peralta said Maria Lourdes and her helpers found the boy slumped on the floor and bleeding.

They brought him to the nearby New Era hospital but he was declared dead on arrival at 7:25 p.m.

Police tried to interview Dionisio's relatives but they were "reluctant" to give details, investigators said.

They went to Navarro's resident but security guard Wilfredo de la Paz and a neighbor of the Navarros, Court of Appeals Justice Fermin A. Martin Jr., told them that there was no one in the Navarro house.

Philip C. Tubeza

Malabon traffic aide shoots jeepney driver

WHEN driver Emmanuel Fajon stopped his jeepney to let a traffic enforcer come on board in Malabon, he did not know it would cost him his life.

Malabon Public Order and Safety Office traffic enforcer Nilo Oliverio, 32, of Barangay Catmon, Malabon, yesterday shot dead Fajon, of Sisa Street, Barangay Acacia, also in Malabon, after the traffic aide remembered an old grudge he had been harboring against the driver, said investigator Reynaldo Gabatin.

Oliverio and Fajon had earlier quarreled over Fajon's alleged traffic violations. Oliverio's wounded feelings apparently had not healed and he was agitated when he realized Fajon was driving the jeep he had boarded, Gabatin said.

The shooting happened at about 11

a.m. yesterday on Mangosteen Street in Barangay Potrero.

Oliverio boarded the jeep, which plied the Monumento-Acacia-Malabon and was then on its way to Monumento. Oliverio had just gone off duty and was still wearing his uniform, Gabatin said.

Witness Orlando Perez, 30, told police that Oliverio pulled out his cal. 38 revolver without saying a word.

Oliverio fired two shots at Fajon before escaping. He did not even pay his fare, witnesses said.

Fajon died on the spot from the two gunshot wounds in the back, Gabatin said.

Police are still looking for Oliverio. It was not known if he had a license to carry the firearm.

Philip C. Tubeza

Valenzuela laborer shot dead by neighbor over clothesline

BECAUSE he would not agree to transfer the clothesline in front of his neighbor's house, laborer Alfonso P. Pallan was shot twice in the forehead and once in the chest.

Pallan, of Calle Onse, Sapang Bakaw, Lawang Bato, Valenzuela City, did not make it alive to the hospital after his neighbor Nonito Sait repeatedly shot him right after midnight Monday, said Insp. Salvador U. de la Cruz, Valenzuela police investigation chief.

The shooting happened about 12:30 a.m. Monday in Pallan's home, De la Cruz added.

The two men fought three hours earlier after Sait complained and asked Pallan to remove the clothesline that the latter put up in front of Sait's house.

But Pallan said he had no other place in the crowded neighborhood to dry his laundry.

The two were about to beat each other when their neighbors separated

them, De la Cruz said.

Pallan thought that was the end of it and so he went home and slept.

But right after midnight, Sait went to Pallan's house. Sait was armed with an unknown gun when he barged into Pallan's house and challenged the laborer to a fight, the investigator said.

Roused from sleep, Pallan took a fan knife but Sait got to him first. Sait fired three successive shots at him, De la Cruz said.

As Pallan dropped dead, Sait ran out and disappeared, the policeman added.

Senior Insp. Ramon Bergonio of the Valenzuela Scene of the Crime Operations (Soco) team said his men recovered four spent M16 rifle shells and four more bullets of the same firearm.

De la Cruz said a case of murder would be filed before the Valenzuela prosecutor's office against Sait, who is now the subject of a massive manhunt.

Philip C. Tubeza

THE DAILY GOSPEL



Wednesday, January 24, 2001
3rd Week in Ordinary Time

1st Reading:
Gospel:

Heb 10:11-18
Mk 4:1-20

Again Jesus began to teach by the lake, but such a large crowd gathered about him that he got into a boat and sat in it on the lake while the crowd stood on the shore. He taught them many things through stories or parables. In his teaching he said, "Listen! The sower went out to sow. As he sowed, some of the seed fell along a path and the birds came and ate it up. Some of the seed fell on rocky ground where it had little soil; it sprang up immediately because it had no depth; but when the sun rose and burned it, it withered because it had no roots. Other seed fell among thorns and the thorns grew and choked it, so it didn't produce any grain. But some seed fell on good soil, grew and increased and yielded grain; some produced thirty times as much, others sixty and others one hundred times as much." And Jesus added, "Listen then, if you have ears."

When the crowd went away, some who were around him with the Twelve asked about the parables.

He answered them, "the mystery of the kingdom of God has been given to you. But for those outside, everything comes in parables, so that the more they see, they don't perceive; the more they hear, they don't understand; otherwise they would be converted and pardoned."

Jesus said to them, "Don't you understand this parable? How then will you understand any of the parables?"

What the sower is sowing is the word. Those along the path where the seed falls are people who hear the word, but as soon as they do, Satan comes and takes away the word that was sown in them.

Other people receive the word like rocky ground. As soon as they hear the word, they accept it with joy, but they have no roots so it lasts only a little while. No sooner does trouble or persecution come because of the word, than they fall.

Others receive the seed as among thorns. After they hear the word, they are caught up in the worries of this life, false hopes of riches and other desires. All these come in and choke the word so that finally it produces nothing.

And there are others who receive the word as good soil. They hear the word, take it to heart and produce: some thirty, some sixty and some one hundred times as much."

Commentary:

"What a sloppy farmer!" was the spontaneous reaction of a farmer who had joined our Bible study group when we read this parable of the sower. He added further, "You waste your precious seeds if you just let them fall everywhere, especially on a soil which has not been prepared for sowing." This is a good lesson, which has practical implications for almost any setting: pastoring a parish, teaching your students, parenting your children, etc. The obstacles would likewise have many allegorical equivalents in these settings: the birds, the stones, the thorns, etc. The sowing itself really takes very little time. Much of the job has to do with preparation of the ground. The son of a carpenter who spoke this parable could have at least consulted a real farmer!

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SUPREME COURT DOCTRINES

CRIMINAL LAW (AGGRAVATING CIRCUMSTANCES)—Treachery—For treachery to be appreciated, two essential elements must concur: (1) the employment of means of execution that gives the person attacked no opportunity to defend himself or to retaliate; and (2) the said means of execution was deliberately or consciously adopted. What is decisive is that the execution of the attack made it impossible for the victim to defend himself or retaliate. In this case, there is no clear showing that the victim could not defend himself when he was attacked. The fact that the attacker used a bladed weapon did not per se make the attack treacherous. Treachery must be proved by clear and convincing evidence or as conclusively as the killing itself. Any doubt as to the existence of treachery must be resolved in favor of the accused. Absent clear and convincing proof of treachery, appellant can only be convicted of homicide. [Citations omitted.] [Justice Quisumbing, En Banc, People v. Hilot, G.R. No. 129532, October 5, 2000]

DIGEST BY R.B. VERA

Lessons learned from Edsa 2

(From page A26)

I made that mistake with Senators Jaworski, Revilla, and Sotto. Those are the three of the 11 "No" senators that I am guilty of having helped elect into office. Good governance comes from a combination of intelligence and decency, traits I will now make sure my future candidates are endowed with.

Lesson number 4: As a member of the broadcast media, I will uphold and respect the unique privilege that has been given to me. I will strive to present all sides of the story, and give the audience what they deserve to see and hear—the truth.

Edsa 2 happened because we have freedom of the press. The images presented on television of the events that transpired during the impeachment trial shaped the people's will and strengthened the resolve of the Filipinos and brought about People Power 2.

If we hadn't seen for ourselves the courage of the witnesses like Emma Lim and Clarissa Ocampo, the arrogance of Senators Enrile, Santiago, John Osmeña, and Tatad; the righteous conviction and indignation of the Prosecution panel led by Joker Arroyo; and the tears of Senators Pimentel, Drilon and Leviste at the mockery of justice the defense lawyers and 11 Senators had tried to pull, People Power 2 would not have come together as instantaneously as it did. The Filipinos are watching, and never again will they allow themselves to be fooled.

Lesson number 5: With prayer and God's grace nothing is impossible.

We are the only country to have had two bloodless revolutions. During lunch in Villa San Miguel on Jan. 19, when Monsignor Soc Villegas informed the Cardinal and my Mom about the impending defection of the Armed Forces Chief General Angelo Reyes, my Mom reminded the Cardinal that he had reassured her and then Vice President Arroyo during a breakfast meeting shortly after the New Year that they should not lose hope about the outcome of the impeachment trial, and by the third week of January they would see, "a miracle would occur."

The Cardinal was prophetic in his assurances to them then, and when my Mom reiterated her question about why he was so sure then, he merely smiled. I guess if you do have a direct line to God, it isn't difficult to have limitless faith. We should always remember that God is good, all the time!

Let me end this piece by wishing my Mom, the woman I love and respect the most in this world, a very happy 68th birthday tomorrow!

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8 DOLBY SURROUND	REMEMBER THE TITANS
9 DOLBY SURROUND	BALAHIBONG PUSA
10 DOLBY SURROUND	TANGING YAMAN
11 DOLBY SURROUND	MALIKOT ANG AGOS NG TUBIG
12 DOLBY SURROUND	BOOBA

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6 DOLBY SURROUND	LITTLE NICKY
7 SYNTHESIZED SURROUND	TANGING YAMAN
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5 DOLBY SURROUND	HIGHLANDER
6 DOLBY SURROUND	WHIPPED
7 DTS	DUDE, WHERE'S MY CAR?
8 DOLBY DIGITAL	RED PLANET
9 SYNTHESIZED SURROUND	KANGKONG
10 DOLBY SURROUND	MEET THE PARENTS
11 SYNTHESIZED SURROUND	REMEMBER THE TITANS
12 DOLBY SURROUND	TANGING YAMAN

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2 ULTRA SURROUND	WHIPPED
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4 ULTRA SURROUND	DUDE, WHERE'S MY CAR
5 ULTRA SURROUND	THE 6TH DAY
6 ULTRA SURROUND	TANGING YAMAN
7 ULTRA SURROUND	BOOBA
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9 ULTRA SURROUND	MALIKOT ANG AGOS NG TUBIG
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ENTERTAINMENT

LOUIE C. CAMINO, Editor

Lessons learned from Edsa 2

**KRIS
AND TELL**

Kris Aquino



THERE are many lessons I learned from Edsa 2. Allow me to share some of them with you.

Lesson number 1: You may not be able to choose your relatives, but you can certainly choose your husband and/or wife and your friends. And you can't afford not to choose wisely.

When people ask me about Sen. Tessie Oreta, the youngest sister of my father, I have consistently said that unfortunately you can't choose your relatives. In fact, I didn't vote for her in 1998 because since 1991, when my Mom chose to support Ramos in the 1992 presidential campaign, and Senator Oreta was a staunch Mitra advocate, she consistently bad-mouthed my Mom.

It may have been petty then, but I didn't include her name in my ballot as payback for all the ugliness she had shown toward my Mom.

My Dad chose his wife, my Mom. And I'm sure in heaven, regardless of the shame his sister's actions have caused him, my Dad is proud and smiling. That's because in choosing a partner in life, he chose a woman who not only shared his values and courage, but also continues to fight for all the principles he gave his life for.

General Defensor, the Air Force Chief, and the brother of Sen. Miriam Defensor-Santiago, is a very charming man. Many people were commenting how different he was in conducting himself from his sister. He has a ready smile, and he told me in the holding room of Edsa Shrine on the fateful day of Jan. 19, right before the generals faced the crowds, "Bakit pa kayo nakaitim? Nandito naman na kami (Why are you all in black. We're already here).

There's nothing to worry about anymore, the side of truth has won."

Senator Santiago and General Defensor may be brother and sister, but just like my Dad and his sister Tessie, they are definitely not cut from the same cloth.

When deposed President Joseph Estrada was leaving Malacañang, I couldn't help but admire the dignity and composure Dra. Loi showed. She smiled during what was probably the most trying time of her life. She stood by a man who has time and again disrespected her. When the tide had turned, and power was no longer in their hands, she was the last one among his women left standing by his side.

That shows strength of character. Mr. Estrada should make restitution to us Filipinos, but he should also spend the rest of his life making amends to Dra. Loi for all his past transgressions.

Lesson number 2: I will never again question the political convictions of my Mom and Cardinal Sin. They are two individuals who didn't take up the cause for political gain or ulterior motives, but only "For Love of Country Kami" (F.L.O.C.K., the citizens' advocacy group that my Mom would like to form). More on that later.

Teddy Boy Locsin and I shared a little laugh, and shook our heads in dis-

belief, when we reminisced that on the day my Mom first called on President Estrada to resign, sometime in the third week of October, a couple of weeks after Gov. Chavit Singson's revelations, we both tried to prevail upon her to tone down her speech, and reconsider using the word "resignation." There was no dissuading her, and I am grateful she didn't listen to us.

My reasoning then was based on the fact that President Estrada had not done her any personal harm, and he had always treated her with respect and courtesy.

My Mom pointed out that the presidency was the biggest privilege the Filipino people can bestow to a man or a woman. How could she keep quiet and do nothing when she was convinced that the President was not living up to his oath of office? He may have treated her well, but he was destroying the economy of our country.

I also questioned Cardinal Sin's inability to show mercy for President Estrada late last year before the impeachment trial had begun. I now realize that as a guardian of our morality, how could he forgive someone who had not shown remorse?

Cardinal Sin was correct in his judgment of a man who not only is suspected of stealing from our nation's coffers, but also of allegedly attempting to steal from us our right to hear the truth.

Lesson number 3: I will vote based on ability, integrity, intelligence and sincerity. I won't vote merely because of a person's popularity and charm.

I will never again vote for an individual because "mabait siya sa akin (the person is nice to me)" and cooperative in granting interviews for my program.

LESSONS/ p.23

MARTIN NIEVERA

XV3 THE AFTERSHOCK

CROSSOVER LIVE TOUR

Saturday, January 27, 2001, 8:00 p.m.
LA SALLE COLISEUM, BACOLOD CITY

Saturday, February 3, 2001, 8:00 p.m.
PSC-SPORTS FOOTBALL FIELD
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Saturday, February 10, 2001, 8:00 p.m.
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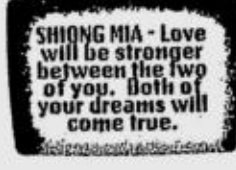
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JOBS	Job Search
LOSTPER	Looking for Long-lost Person
LOSTTHNG	Looking for Long-lost Thing
LUCK	Luck Power
MAR	Marriage
MATCH	Matchmaking
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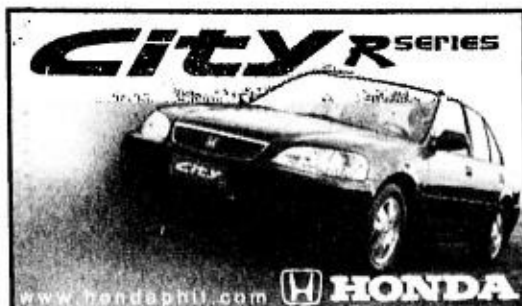


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JANUARY 24, 2001

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BUSINESS

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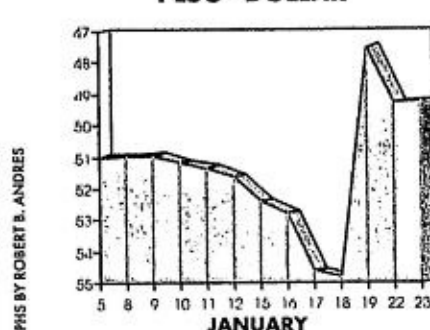
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ING Barings to advise Equitable

EQUITABLE PCI Bank has appointed ING Barings as its financial adviser on the same day it announced that it was re-thinking plans of selling the bank to a strategic investor.

Alberto Reyes, deputy governor of the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas, said the best option for the country's third-largest lender was still to merge with another bank following threats to its financial health.

"A merger would result in a bigger, stronger bank that would create a bank that could compete regionally," the BSP official said.

He said ING would help Equitable look for a foreign investor, help re-

package the bank if necessary, and assist the bank in evaluating proposals it had received.

Reyes noted that as of last Monday, the bank's condition has improved although he declined to say how much deposits Equitable had serviced since November.

Industry analysts said the bank had lost between P30 billion and P40 billion of its P160-billion deposits. This prompted the BSP and the Department of Finance of the previous administration to mount a serious rescue effort for the troubled lender.

"They said some of the withdrawals are already coming back as of

ING/ B2

INVESTMENT bank Lehman Brothers said it believed the assumption of office by President Macapagal-Arroyo represented a new lease on life in the country, both politically and economically.

The new political situation has "a chance to reverse the steady decline in perceptions of Philippine sovereign credit risk," said Robin A. Gvozden, sovereign research analyst of Lehman, in his latest sovereign research report on the country.

He noted in particular President Macapagal-Arroyo's pledge of "leadership by example," saying that nothing will stimulate foreign investor interest in the Philippines as much as a demonstration of the

new administration's ability to pursue legislative and administrative reforms.

Gvozden outlined three factors why the new administration has the opportunity to turn the economy around and impress foreign investors.

- The chronic fiscal revenue under-performance that has widened the budget deficit for the past two years is still manageable by international standards.

- Macapagal's first Cabinet appointment was Alberto Romulo as finance secretary, which sends a strong message that economic affairs will be given priority in the new administration.

- None of the credit rating agen-

cies have changed their country rating on the Philippines since before the outbreak of the Asian financial crisis.

"We expect the Philippines would have had a current account surplus worth approximately 9 percent of GDP in 2000, which would allow the economy to accommodate a large fiscal deficit without requiring a proportional level of external borrowing," Gvozden said. Lehman Brothers expects the current account surplus to shrink in 2001 but remain at a healthy 5 percent of GDP.

"Still, daunting challenges lie ahead for the (new) administration," Gvozden said. President Macapagal needs to build a consistent policy

track record. More immediate tasks for her include the passage of the current year's budget with realistic forecasts; the liberalization of the power sector; and a lasting political settlement with Moro separatist groups in Mindanao.

"In October 2000, we noted that a political solution was required in order for foreign investors to regain confidence in the Philippines. That political solution has now arrived, and in order for its beneficial effects to reach foreign investors, and improve their willingness to buy Philippine sovereign debt, the new administration will need to increase the level of transparency and communication."

Megaworld seen taking over BW operations

BY DORIS C. DURLAO

PREMIER property developer Megaworld Corp. is expected to take over Fairmont Holdings Inc., formerly BW Resources Corp., now that its 72.72-percent stake in the controversial gaming firm has been freed from lock-up.

In a disclosure to the Philippine Stock Exchange yesterday, Fairmont announced that Megaworld's holdings of 1.2 billion common shares with a par value of P1 per share were released from the lock-up period on Monday.

The 1.2 billion common shares will commence trading on the PSE today.

In an interview, however, Megaworld investor relations officer Luke Tan yesterday said the company would reserve comment on what it would do with the newly released Fairmont shares.

"As of now, we don't have any specific direction on what to do with the shares," he said.

But analysts believed that with controversial Dante Tan now virtually crippled with the ouster of President Estrada, Megaworld might have no choice but to exercise control over its 72.72-percent exposure.

The infusion of Dante Tan's Best World Gaming and Entertainment Corp.'s bingo operations into the

company was originally intended to dilute Megaworld's exposure in BW.

"Andrew Tan (Megaworld chair and CEO) will take over management and it will become a property company," Eagle Equities Inc. president Joseph Roxas said when asked about the most probable scenario.

Megaworld acquired 1.2 billion shares of BW as part of an asset-for-share swap involving the transfer of the company's Malate property, which will house the Sheraton Marina complex. Andrew Tan had intended to be a passive investor in the company. The shares, however, were locked up for a period of one year.

Sheraton Marina was supposed to be

BW's flagship project and was set to have the casino operations of the Philippine Amusement and Gaming Corp.

In an earlier interview, Andrew Tan had said his holding company was not in a hurry to dispose of its investments in Fairmont, which has been at the forefront of a price manipulation scandal. For its part, Megaworld's main focus is to maintain its leadership in the cyberpark race.

Megaworld is currently developing the country's first information technology park in its Eastwood City complex in Quezon City.

Megaworld's exposure in BW represented only about 3 percent of its total assets. Thus, the company is confident that any sharp drop in BW share prices would not have a material impact on its total asset portfolio.

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MJ on the defensive

IT looks like dealmaker/publisher Mark Jimenez has no choice but to cry uncle to Sam.

With his drinking/deal buddy in Malacañang now gone, and the Democrats out of power over in Washington, the plea-bargaining route with the new Bush administration now seems to be the most logical end to this transcontinental chase for what used to be Florida's most successful Filipino businessman.

According to one booster, MJ would most likely take the James Riady route, where the Indonesian businessman paid a multi-million fine in addition to a light jail sentence in exchange for pleading guilty to illegal campaign contributions to the Clintons.

But this scenario is not likely to happen within the next six months, predicted a key MJ executive, given the transition focus of the Bush administration.

This, of course, is not what ad executive and Erap pal Babes Romualdez wants. If he had his way, a manacled MJ would have been shipped out of the country via ConAir by last yearend.

Failing his own prediction, Romualdez, whose PR accounts include the US Embassy, has been reduced to leaking anti-MJ tidbits through his columnist/business partner.

In the meantime, given the dearth of M&A opportunities since the Equitable PCI Bank windfall, the big-spending MJ is now being parsimonious with his money, to the point that the landlord of his English daily has been grumbling about back rentals.

Even some of his key staffers have also been making noises about delayed pay checks.

Winners and losers

GIVEN the sudden shift in political fortunes, Topwin Securities, the brokerage firm that has a special spot in SSS Chair Carlos Arellano's fat heart, is said to be considering a name change and

even a new investor.

Topless, Topgone, and Toploss are the early favorites of the mischievous competitors.

Arellano, as well as his stock market right-hand men Dondi Agcaoili and Armand Racquel-Santos, have grown more scarce from the SSS since People Power II erupted last week.

We understand that former PSE president Vitaliano Nafagas has accepted the offer to head the Social Security System to replace Arellano.

Among Nafagas' tasks include the long-planned merger of SSS with the Government Service Insurance System, a reason why probably up until yesterday afternoon no replacement had been named for outgoing GSIS president Federico Pascual.

Take the money and run
IT seems that Mr. and Mrs. Jose Velarde are not the only one trying to spirit their monies.

Over at the sequestered Philcomsat, Jinggoy buddy Carmelo "Butch" Africa tried Monday to transfer P1 million in petty cash to a family company had not alert auditors refused to sign the papers.

Africa and fellow board member Sylvia Yap had also tried to take over the P800-million cash deposits of the Philcomsat Group with Bank of Commerce, to the extent of even lobbying with Bangko Sentral Governor Rafael Buenaventura to pry loose the deposits.

Buenaventura, to his credit, refused to be stampeded, due to unresolved court cases precisely over the same issues.

COCKTALES

By Victor C. Agustin



Short takes

• THE FVR camp is pushing for ex-banker Joel Valdez, 41, as DOTC secretary while the Cebu group of Lito "Promdi" Osmeña wants the right to name not only the secretary but also his four undersecretaries.

• GUESS which senator said this during the Senate caucus called after Sen. Miriam Defensor-Santiago

went into her famous outburst that led to the ouster of three spectators in the gallery? "Huwag na tayong maglokoan. We all know what this will come out to. We all know that this is just a charade."

Heard through the grapevine

AND speaking of Miriam Defensor-Santiago, the tempestuous senator is

building a new house on a 4,000-square-meter lot in La Vista, where she will be neighbor with Sen. Francisco Tatad.

Santiago and her husband are supposed to maintain separate bedrooms in their new nest, with the senator's bedroom a lot bigger than her husband's.

(Cocktales may be reached by e-mail at cocktales_pdi@yahoo.com or at cocktales_pdi@hotmail.com.)

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Canada's Tracer tying up with A Brown

By DORIS C. DUMLAO

CANADA-BASED Tracer Petroleum Corp. (TPC) will soon become the newest player in the Philippines' deregulated oil industry via a joint venture with local chemical manufacturing and trading firm A Brown Co. Inc.

In a disclosure to the Philippine Stock Exchange yesterday, A

Brown corporate secretary Oliva Pedere said the company had signed a joint-venture deal with TPC to market and trade crude oil and petroleum products not just in the Philippines but in other countries in the Far East and Australia.

The joint venture will be undertaken through a company to be registered with the Securities and Exchange Commission under the name

A Brown Energy Inc.

In a separate disclosure in Canada, TPC president and CEO David Robinson said his company would own 51 percent of the joint venture, which will compete with three oil giants Pilipinas Shell Petroleum Corp., Caltex Phils. Inc. and Petron Corp. as well as 60 other new players in the downstream oil sector.

So far, the 60 new players in the sector have aggregatedly pumped in more than P10 billion in investments since the industry was deregulated in March 1998.

A Brown is a manufacturing and trading company with business interests in the Philippines and Indonesia. Established in 1993, it was the result of the merger of EPIC Holdings, Brown Chemical Corp.

and Brown Chemical Sales Corp.

"Through its joint venture with TPC, which has petroleum interests in Iran and the Caspian Sea region, the company would expand its business of chemicals trading to include crude oil and petroleum products trading capability in the expanding Far Eastern and Asia Pacific markets," Robinson said.

For its part, TPC is a junior oil and gas exploration and production company with its corporate headquarters in Calgary, Alberta. Its shares are quoted on the Over the Counter (OTC) Bulletin Board in the US under the symbol TCXXF.

TPC has been active in petroleum exploration and development in Indonesia. However, the company had refocused its efforts to areas outside of Indonesia and has sold its Indonesian holdings but will continue to hold a carried interest of 5 percent in the North Tanjung Block.

In line with its petroleum interests, TPC has been pursuing a number of significant development op-

portunities in the Islamic Republic of Iran through its unique relationship with the Mullins Group of London, England. A subsidiary, Tracer Petroleum International, was jointly formed with the Mullins Group in order to facilitate the identification of and negotiation for interests in major petroleum ventures in Iran.

TPC also announced it had entered into a Memorandum of Understanding with Rose Queshm Co. (RQC) of the Islamic Republic of Iran. Under the agreement, TPC and RQC formed a partnership that would have the right to undertake any and all crude oil swaps in Iran; import refined petroleum products into Iran; acquire any and all products, services and equipment for the National Iranian Oil Co. and the Iranian Petroleum Ministry, and undertake other significant business ventures in Iran on behalf of all Iranian government companies and ministries. These rights were awarded by the government of Iran to RQC.

GOINGS-ON

3Com bullish

NETWORKING company 3Com Corp. has shown a strong performance in the Philippines last year with its strategic move to zero in on high-growth markets among small- and medium-sized businesses and consumers.

The Philippine political crises notwithstanding, 3Com Corp. said it had done well in the year 2000.

"There were strong months that greatly contributed to the achievement of the company's targets," said Kenneth Palacios, 3Com Philippines country manager. "These were a result of a cohesive team driven to deliver the right solutions mix through various partners in the industry. This could be signified by the strategic wins in key accounts and the partnerships that are being developed to continue the momentum."

Among the major wins of 3Com Philippines is the industry's first National Telecommunications Commission (NTC) type acceptance for wireless local area network (LAN) products under the 2.4 Ghz frequency.

New agri magazine

THE COUNTRY'S horizon will never be the same again with the launch of Agri Asia, the region's first business magazine catering to the information needs of "agri-businessmen" and decision makers.

Its maiden issue on Feb. 5 will focus on what's in store for the agribusiness sector in the year of the snake, with meaningful insights provided by the country's top minds in the agriculture, economic, and financial sectors. It will also discuss the prospects for the major crops and industries, and identify potential money-makers in the agribusiness sector for the year 2001.

LBP-Philexport-Fobap tie-up

THE COUNTRY'S small and medium exporters can access more credit for their working capital through a new program jointly implemented by the Land Bank of the Philippines, the Foreign Buyers Association of the Philippines (Fobap) and the Philippine Exporters Confederation Inc. (Philexport).

The program, known as the Special Financial Assistance for Small and Medium Exporters (SFA-SMIX), is the first of its kind to be forged by Fobap and Philexport with a commercial bank. It seeks to provide funds as well as technical assistance to small and medium exporters.

The SFA-SMLX has been pilot-tested in the National Capital Region. It will be initially implemented in the following areas: Cavite, Laguna, Batangas, Rizal and Quezon (Calabarzon), NCR, Pampanga, Bulacan as well as Cebu and Davao.

Under the agreement, Landbank will provide and ensure fund availability for approved credit facilities. Loans will be made available in the form of Export Packing Credit Line and Export Bills Purchase Line.

Court stops implementation of EO on duty-free shops

By GIL C. CABACUNGAN JR.

DUTY-FREE operators have successfully lobbied against the implementation of an Estrada directive strictly limiting their operations to airports and their merchandise to consumables, mostly cigarettes, alcohol and confectionery.

Task Force Duty Free chair Jesus Arranza said the Angeles City Court issued an order freezing the implementation of Executive Order No. 303 which curtails duty-free store operations, specifically restrictions on locations, type of merchandise to be sold, and eligible buyers.

Arranza questioned the court order because it was based on an injunction issued against a Ramos directive, EO 444, in 1998. EO 444 sets the monthly purchase privileges of domestic tourists at \$25 and residents of Pampanga and Olongapo at \$100 as well as bans the establishment of more duty-free stores.

Arranza said the court order would benefit duty-free operators who have also successfully delayed the drafting of implementing rules and regulations of EO 303.

Arranza said that had the task

force led by the Department of Trade and Industry finished the IRR last year, EO 303 would have been implemented successfully. "The delay in the issuance of an IRR gave the duty-free stores more time to seek the court order as well as continue their operations during the Christmas season," Arranza said.

Among the DTI-led task force's main agenda is to determine whether Duty Free Philippines Inc. in Parañaque (the biggest duty-free store in the country) should continue to operate because it has yet to be determined whether it is operating inside or outside the Ninoy Aquino International Airport.

EO 303 would have canceled the four duty-free store franchises in Davao, Cebu, Laoag and Ozamiz awarded by the Department of Tourism to Estrada crony Lucio Co because these are located outside ports of entry.

The task force was also mandated to determine which merchandise should be sold in these stores, as well as the persons allowed to purchase goods from these stores.

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SEC asks justice dep't to reconsider decision on BW

By ELENA R. TORRIJOS

THE SECURITIES and Exchange Commission has asked the Department of Justice to reconsider its decision to dismiss several charges against individuals and brokers implicated in the BW Resources Corp. stock fraud scandal.

The SEC had filed two complaints against 37 individuals, led by BWRC shareholder Dante Tan, 11 brokers and two investment houses for their involvement in the manipulation of the stocks of the listed gaming and leisure company BWRC, now known as Fairmont Holdings.

However, a DOJ panel of prosecutors dismissed last month most of the charges for lack of proof of manipulative intent. It recommended the pursuit only of the cases against Tan, Jimmy Juan and former BWRC president Eduardo Lim Jr. for alleged large-scale stock manipulation.

The department also cited Tan for resorting to an illegal lock-up scheme and Lim for alleged violation of the broker-director rule, which disallows a broker from trading shares of companies in which he or she sits as a director.

The shares of BWRC rose from about P2 per share at the start of the year to as high as P107 per share on Oct. 11, 1999. The share prices, however, fell in the same week to less than half the peak, leading to the near collapse of the stock market. This triggered an investigation by the SEC. The stock currently trades at around 70 cents per share.

In a motion filed last week, the SEC asked the DOJ to set aside or reverse its decision to dismiss charges on wash sales, matched orders, marking the close, abuse of EQ trade facilities and done-thru transactions.

It said that the dismissal of charges against respondent brokers should be reconsidered saying that the meteoric rise and fall of BWRC shares was "highly bizarre and extraordinary."

Vehicle makers see modest sales growth

By GIL C. CABACUNGAN JR.

LOCAL vehicle assemblers are still cautious over the industry's sales outlook for passenger cars and commercial vehicles this year as doubts remain whether the change in the administration could spark consumer confidence and sustain last year's rebound.

Toyota Motor Philippines Inc. and Mitsubishi Motors Philippines Corp. are projecting flat sales growth this year. The Chamber of Automotive Manufacturers of the Philippines Inc. reported a 12.8-percent increase in sales to 83,949 units last year from 74,414 units in 1999.

But Honda Cars Philippines Inc. reckoned that sales could still grow by as much as 10 percent this year due to the euphoria from the ouster of former President Joseph Estrada.

HCPI assistant vice president Amel Doria said that based solely on government forecasts of 3.5 percent to 4 percent growth in gross domestic product this year, sales should improve by 10 percent this year. "We're still fi-

nalizing our forecasts but we're looking at a positive growth this year especially since the change in administration would certainly boost confidence."

"With the political crisis over, the industry should now be focusing solely on the economy for their projections," said Doria who predicted a 5-percent decline in sales this year when Estrada was still in power.

Doria said the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas' decision to maintain interest rates low despite mounting pressure on the peso

has addressed half of the industry's problems. Sales have been sluggish over in 1998 and 1999 after banks shut off their credit spigots and the BSP toughened up its banking policies in response to the 1997 financial crisis.

Doria said the biggest hurdle to sales growth would be the continued weakness of the currency versus the US dollar. Doria said the industry was expecting the peso to stabilize at the 45 to 51 level this year but its rapid decline to a record-low of 55 early this month does not bode well for the industry.

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DUE FROM BANGKO SENTRAL	54,821,312.69
DUE FROM OTHER BANKS	58,326,267.77
INTERBANK LOANS RECEIVABLE	240,000,000.00
TRADING ACCOUNT SECURITIES (NET)	308,441,076.92
INVESTMENTS IN BONDS AND OTHER DEBT INSTRUMENTS (NET)	38,674,781.81
LOANS, DISCOUNTS & ADVANCES (NET)	2,331,581,143.90
BANK PREMISES, FURNITURE, FIXTURES & EQUIPMENT (NET)	73,044,133.05
OTHER ASSETS (NET):	
A. PROPERTIES OWNED/ACQUIRED	105,890,702.16
B. OTHERS	27,875,292.02
TOTAL ASSETS	P 3,366,670,612.81
LIABILITIES	
DEMAND DEPOSITS	P 41,435,036.45
SAVINGS DEPOSITS	1,727,517,744.12
DUE TO BANGKO SENTRAL	3,123,846.27
TREASURER / CASHIER / MANAGER'S CHECKS	20,809,120.73
UNEARNED INCOME AND OTHER DEFERRED CREDITS	760,353.69
OTHER LIABILITIES	1,128,494,548.71
TOTAL LIABILITIES	P 2,922,140,855.97
CAPITAL ACCOUNTS	
CAPITAL STOCK	P 300,000,000.00
SURPLUS	84,529,756.84
TOTAL CAPITAL ACCOUNTS	P 384,529,756.84
CONTINGENT ACCOUNTS	
UNUSUED COMMERCIAL LETTERS OF CREDIT	P 419,735.50
OTHER CONTINGENT ACCOUNTS	1,111,818.05
TOTAL CONTINGENT ACCOUNTS	P 1,531,553.55

OTHER INFORMATION:	
1. Deposits Of:	
a) Government	P 12,311.83
b) Banks	P 12,624,939.47
c) Trust Department	P -
2. Compliance with Magna Carta Law as of Nov. 30, 2000	
Prescribed	
Ratio of Compliance	6% for Small Enterprises
Actual Compliance	21%
3. Amount of non-performing loans	P 219,441,885.04
4. Ratio of non-performing loans to total loan portfolio	8.3%
5. Amount of classified loans and other risk assets	P 372,158,082.02
6. General provision for loan losses	P 17,672,333.56
7. Specific provision for loan losses	P 48,449,280.58
8. Return on equity (ROE)	P -
9. Amount of DOSRI loans/advances	P -
10. Ratio of DOSRI loans/advances to total loan portfolio	P -
11. Amount of past due DOSRI loans/advances	P -
12. Ratio of past due DOSRI loans/advances to total loan portfolio	P -

* Amended to conform with circular No. 208 dated August 17, 1999 and Memorandum to All Banks dated November 29, 1999.

REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES)
MAKATI CITY) S.S.

We, MARCOS G. BAUTISTA and MANUEL T. TAN of the above-mentioned bank do solemnly swear that all matters set forth in the above statement of condition are true and correct to the best of my/our knowledge and belief.

(SGD) MARCOS G. BAUTISTA and (SGD) MANUEL T. TAN
Accountant President

SUBSCRIBED AND SWORN to before me this 9th day of January 2001 at Makati City, Philippines, in the presence of me, Notary Public, and the undersigned witnesses, who are duly sworn to the truth of the foregoing statement of condition.

(SGD) BENJAMIN B. MATA
NOTARY PUBLIC
Until December 31, 2001
PTR NO. 3126337
Date Issued: January 02, 2001

Doc No. 243
Book No. 50
Page No. 19
Series of 2001

Equitable PCI BANK Service Is Our Element.

Manila Office: 262 Juan Luna St., Binondo
Makati Office: Makati Avenue cor. H.V. de la Costa St.

STATEMENT OF CONDITION (Head Office and Branches) As of December 19, 2000

ASSETS	
CASH AND CASH ITEMS	P 6,502,332.139
DUE FROM BANGKO SENTRAL	3,778,280.799
DUE FROM OTHER BANKS	23,187,381.866
INTERBANK LOANS RECEIVABLE	31,155,890.300
TRADING ACCOUNT SECURITIES (NET)	3,027,369.463
INVESTMENT IN BONDS AND OTHER DEBT INSTRUMENTS (NET)	31,946,724.114
LOANS AND DISCOUNTS & ADVANCES (NET)	120,015,883.948
EQUITY INVESTMENTS (NET)	11,869,258.174
BANK PREMISES, FURNITURE, FIXTURES & EQUIPMENT (NET)	13,294,212.381
OTHER ASSETS (NET):	
A. PROPERTIES OWNED/ACQUIRED	8,385,537.935
B. OTHERS	48,993,055.212
TOTAL ASSETS	P 292,459,365.351
LIABILITIES	
DEMAND DEPOSITS	P 9,503,782.254
SAVINGS DEPOSITS	102,774,462.872
TIME DEPOSITS	63,762,962.866
SPECIAL/OTHER DEPOSITS	89,537.751
DUE TO BANGKO SENTRAL	725,665.524
DUE TO OTHER BANKS	104,075.993
OUTSTANDING CHECKS/PAYMENT ORDERS	1,958,902.526
BILLS PAYABLE	12,093,537.020
BSP - REDISCOUNTING/SPECIAL PROGRAMS	32,675,329.930
OTHERS	1,242,425.551
UNEARNED INCOME AND OTHER DEFERRED CREDITS	20,904,705.682
OTHER LIABILITIES	246,285,022.939
TOTAL LIABILITIES	P 246,285,022.939
CAPITAL ACCOUNTS	
CAPITAL STOCK	44,666,157.015
SURPLUS	6,911,413.410
SURPLUS RESERVES	340,488.895
OTHER CAPITAL ACCOUNTS	1,588,693.790
LESS: PARENT COMPANY SHARES HELD BY A SUBSIDIARY	7,332,779.589
TOTAL CAPITAL ACCOUNTS	P 46,174,969.492
TOTAL LIABILITIES AND CAPITAL ACCOUNTS	P 292,459,365.351
CONTINGENT ACCOUNTS	
UNUSUED COMMERCIAL LETTERS OF CREDIT	P 17,141,261.867
BILLS FOR COLLECTION	2,811,932.493
SPOT/FUTURE EXCHANGE BOUGHT	36,925,418.350
SPOT/FUTURE EXCHANGE SOLD	20,437,216.187
ASSETS HELD UNDER TRUST AND INVESTMENT MANAGEMENT AGREEMENTS	42,892,874.921
INVESTED IN:	
Government Securities	10,952,485.919
Other Securities, Debt Instruments and Shares of Stocks	7,723,016.635
Loans and Discounts	14,784,147.224
Other Assets	9,433,325.143
ACCOUNTABILITIES:	
Trust and Other Fiduciary	18,743,446.118
Common Trust Fund	21,262,639.900
Investment/Fund Management	1,509,263.668
Unearned Income & Other	1,377,685.235
TOTAL CONTINGENT ACCOUNTS	P 7,794,361.133
TOTAL LIABILITIES AND CAPITAL ACCOUNTS	P 292,459,365.351

OTHER INFORMATION:	
1. Deposits Of:	
a) Government	P 338,538.735
b) Banks	822,330,009
c) Trust	1,372,953,207
2. Compliance with Magna Carta Law as of December 19, 2000	
Prescribed	
Ratio of Compliance	6% for Small Enterprises
Actual Compliance	104.98%
Parent and Subsidiaries	100.90%
3. Amount of non-performing loans	21,822,409.507
4. Ratio of non-performing loans to total loan portfolio	14.34%
5. Amount of classified loans and other risk assets	44,153,013,000
6. General provision for loan losses	2,349,514,000
7. Specific provision for loan losses	6,043,596,000
8. Return on equity (ROE)	3.33%
9. Amount of DOSRI loans/advances	2,802,337,665
10. Ratio of DOSRI loans/advances to total loan portfolio	1.84%
11. Past Due DOSRI loans/advances	0
12. Ratio of past due DOSRI loans/advances to total loan portfolio	0.00%

* Amended to conform with circular No. 208 dated August 17, 1999 and Memorandum to All Banks dated November 29, 1999.

REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES)
CITY OF MANILA) S.S.

We, MAFALOR R. BANGCO and WILFRIDO V. VERGARA of the above-mentioned bank do solemnly swear that all matters set forth in the above statement of condition are true and correct to the best of my/our knowledge and belief.

(SGD) MAFALOR R. BANGCO and (SGD) WILFRIDO V. VERGARA
Senior Vice President & Controller President & CEO

SUBSCRIBED AND SWORN to before me this 23rd day of January 2001 at Makati City, Philippines, in the presence of me, Notary Public, and the undersigned witnesses, who are duly sworn to the truth of the foregoing statement of condition.

(SGD) BENJAMIN B. MATA
NOTARY PUBLIC
Until December 31, 2001
PTR NO. 3126337
Date Issued: January 2, 2001

Doc No. 482
Book No. 98
Page No. 5
Series of 2001

CONSOLIDATED STATEMENT OF CONDITION (Bank and Financial Subsidiaries) As of December 19, 2000

ASSETS	P	6,701,193,174
CASH AND CASH ITEMS	3,850,189,567	
DUE FROM BANGKO SENTRAL	23,944,980,451	
DUE FROM OTHER BANKS	24,372,880,300	
INTERBANK LOANS RECEIVABLE	5,331,781,900	
TRADING ACCOUNT SECURITIES (NET)	32,331,058,818	
INVESTMENT IN BONDS AND OTHER DEBT INSTRUMENTS (NET)	124,548,565,514	
LOANS AND DISCOUNTS & ADVANCES (NET)	3,780,000,704	
EQUITY INVESTMENTS (NET)	14,188,687,581	
BANK PREMISES, FURNITURE, FIXTURES & EQUIPMENT (NET)	8,798,114,501	
OTHER ASSETS (NET):		
A. PROPERTIES OWNED/ACQUIRED	53,473,827,490	
B. OTHERS	194,381,648,930	
TOTAL ASSETS	P 301,449,320,370	
LIABILITIES	P	9,630,030,913
DEMAND DEPOSITS	194,381,648,930	
SAVINGS DEPOSITS	63,762,962,866	
TIME DEPOSITS	89,537.751	
SPECIAL/OTHER DEPOSITS	728,729.370	
DUE TO BANGKO SENTRAL	104,075.993	
DUE TO OTHER BANKS	1,958,902.526	
OUTSTANDING CHECKS/PAYMENT ORDERS	12,093,537.020	
BILLS PAYABLE	32,675,329.930	
BSP - REDISCOUNTING/SPECIAL PROGRAMS	1,242,425.551	
OTHERS	20,904,705.682	
UNEARNED INCOME AND OTHER DEFERRED CREDITS	25,717,428.482	
OTHER LIABILITIES	255,105,200,222	
TOTAL LIABILITIES	P 255,105,200,222	
CAPITAL ACCOUNTS		44,666,157.015
CAPITAL STOCK	7,072,292,866	
SURPLUS	347,715,996	
SURPLUS RESERVES	1,588,693.790	
OTHER CAPITAL ACCOUNTS	7,332,779.589	
LESS: PARENT COMPANY SHARES HELD BY A SUBSIDIARY	46,340,093,148	
TOTAL CAPITAL ACCOUNTS	P 301,449,320,370	
CONTINGENT ACCOUNTS		17,141,261.867
UNUSUED COMMERCIAL LETTERS OF CREDIT	2,811,932.493	
BILLS FOR COLLECTION	36,925,418.350	
SPOT/FUTURE EXCHANGE BOUGHT	20,437,216.187	
SPOT/FUTURE EXCHANGE SOLD	42,892,874.921	
ASSETS HELD UNDER TRUST AND INVESTMENT MANAGEMENT AGREEMENTS	10,952,485.919	
INVESTED IN:		
Government Securities	7,723,016.635	
Other Securities, Debt Instruments and Shares of Stocks	14,784,147.224	
Loans and Discounts	9,433,325.143	
Other Assets	18,743,446.118	
ACCOUNTABILITIES:		
Trust and Other Fiduciary	21,262,639.900	
Common Trust Fund	1,509,263.668	
Investment/Fund Management	1,377,685.235	
Unearned Income & Other	7,794,361.133	
TOTAL CONTINGENT ACCOUNTS	P 7,794,361.133	
TOTAL LIABILITIES AND CAPITAL ACCOUNTS	P 301,449,320,370	

OTHER INFORMATION:	
1. Deposits Of:	
a) Government	P 338,538.735
b) Banks	822,330,009
c) Trust	1,372,953,207
2. Compliance with Magna Carta Law as of December 19, 2000	
Prescribed	
Ratio of Compliance	6% for Small Enterprises
Actual Compliance	104.98%
Parent and Subsidiaries	100.90%
3. Amount of non-performing loans	21,822,409.507
4. Ratio of non-performing loans to total loan portfolio	14.34%
5. Amount of classified loans and other risk assets	44,153,013,000
6. General provision for loan losses	2,349,514,000
7. Specific provision for loan losses	6,043,596,000
8. Return on equity (ROE)	3.33%
9. Amount of DOSRI loans/advances	2,802,337,665
10. Ratio of DOSRI loans/advances to total loan portfolio	1.84%
11. Past Due DOSRI loans/advances	0
12. Ratio of past due DOSRI loans/advances to total loan portfolio	0.00%

* Amended to conform with circular No. 208 dated August 17, 1999 and Memorandum to All Banks dated November 29, 1999.

REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES)
CITY OF MANILA) S.S.

We, MAFALOR R. BANGCO and WILFRIDO V. VERGARA of the above-mentioned bank do solemnly swear that all matters set forth in the above statement of condition are true and correct to the best of my/our knowledge and belief.

(SGD) MAFALOR R. BANGCO and (SGD) WILFRIDO V. VERGARA
Senior Vice President & Controller President & CEO

SUBSCRIBED AND SWORN to before me this 23rd day of January 2001 at Makati City, Philippines, in the presence of me, Notary Public, and the undersigned witnesses, who are duly sworn to the truth of the foregoing statement of condition.

(SGD) BENJAMIN B. MATA
NOTARY PUBLIC
Until December 31, 2001
PTR NO. 3126337
Date Issued: January 2, 2001

Doc No. 481
Book No. 98
Page No. 5
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PCIB Savings Bank in-touch BANKING

Equitable PCI Bank Tower 2
Makati Avenue, Makati City

STATEMENT OF CONDITION (Head Office and Branches) As of December 19, 2000

ASSETS	AMOUNT
CASH AND CASH ITEMS	P 47,895,067.08
DUE FROM CENTRAL BANK	17,887,455.12
DUE FROM OTHER BANKS	77,057,219.71
INTERBANK LOANS RECEIVABLE	1,017,000,000.00
LOANS, DISCOUNTS & ADVANCES (NET)	347,304,334.68
INVESTMENTS IN BONDS AND OTHER DEBT INSTRUMENTS (NET)	12,850,538.90
BANK PREMISES, FURNITURE, FIXTURES & EQUIPMENT (NET)	45,654,489.01
OTHER ASSETS-OTHERS (NET):	
A. PROPERTY OWNED/ACCQUIRED	251,894.00
B. OTHERS	34,487,800.36
TOTAL ASSETS	P 1,650,189,592.45
<u>LIABILITIES</u>	
DEMAND DEPOSITS	P 48,501,110.55
SAVINGS DEPOSITS	789,488,578.05
TIME DEPOSITS	51,924,932.80
OUTSTANDING CHECKS/PAYMENT ORDERS	3,993,514.95
UNEARNED INCOME AND OTHER DEFERRED CREDITS	25,535.88
OTHER LIABILITIES	23,713,039.99
TOTAL LIABILITIES	P 924,246,164.22
<u>CAPITAL ACCOUNTS</u>	

Uprising clears gov't logjam

PRESIDENT Joseph Estrada's ouster came just in time for dozens of workers at Equitable Machinery Inc.

The Manila-based lender of diggers, tractors and bulldozers planned to lay off a sixth of its 300 workers this month as companies put projects on hold until Estrada's fraud trial ended. Yet, as soon as Estrada called it quits on Saturday, after the Armed Forces switched allegiance to then Vice President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo, the phones started ringing and it won a new contract.

"We had planned to lay off 50 of our workers, but now we are going to wait and see," said Raffy Rodriguez, a part owner of the company.

Equitable and other businesses, both Philippine and foreign, are counting on Ms Macapagal to help revive economic growth, forecast to slow to 3 percent this year from 4 percent in 2000. Companies froze expansion plans and investors pulled their money out of the country as Estrada fought corruption allegations, driving the peso down 20 percent last year.

It was not just small businesses that were hurt by political troubles.

JG Summit Holdings Inc.'s Cebu Pacific Air in November deferred plans to

buy 14 Boeing Co. jets for \$518 million to meet an expected increase in demand. JG Summit also scaled back plans to build a \$200-million mobile-phone network for its phone unit, Digital Telecommunications Philippines Inc.

Now, the company is taking a second look at those projects.

"We had to slow down our airline and wireless businesses" as Estrada's troubles crimped business and consumer spending, Lance Gokongwei, the group's executive vice president, said. "Now we can pursue these more actively. At least there should be more capital."

In a vote of confidence for Ms Macapagal, the Philippine Stock Exchange composite index staged its biggest-ever rally Monday, finishing up 17.6 percent. The peso gained 8 percent over the past week, the world's best performer.

The change of government may bring companies immediate relief in the form of lower interest rates. Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas Governor Rafael Buenaventura said the bank might cut key rates by half a percentage point tomorrow as the peso's gains gave policymakers room to bring down borrowing costs.

Policymakers jacked rates up four percentage points in October after corruption charges against Estrada emerged, pushing the currency to a then-record low.

Still, after the initial euphoria over Estrada's departure subsided, many of the same problems will continue to plague the Philippine economy—one of Asia's worst performers. The change of leadership alone may not offer a quick fix, analysts say.

Ms Macapagal's rise to power would help investor confidence "in the very short run, but it's going to take a lot of work to make it work for more than a few weeks," said William Overholt, chief regional economist at Nomura International (Hong Kong) Ltd.

Ms Macapagal and Alberto Romulo, whom she appointed finance secretary on Saturday, will inherit slumping government revenue, rising unemployment and weak consumer demand to help keep the economy from stalling as slowing overseas demand crimps exports.

Business leaders said Romulo was up to the task of restoring growth and investor confidence.

"We're happy with the choice of

Romulo," a former senator and budget secretary, said Guillermo Luz, executive director of the Makati Business Club, considered the voice of big business in the Philippines. "He's an honest man and a simple guy with the requisite background and qualifications."

Romulo served as budget secretary under former President Aquino when she replaced dictator Ferdinand Marcos after the 1986 "people power" uprising. He served in the Senate from 1987 to 1998, and was an author of a law that reorganized the central bank in 1993.

Even with those qualifications, there's no guarantee he'll be able to fix problems like the government's budget deficit, which swelled to a record P136.1 billion last year—more than double the government's initial target.

Mixed results
The shortfall derailed government spending on roads, ports and other projects that could have created jobs and boosted economic growth.

During his two-year stint as budget secretary, he saw the deficit surge to P31.3 billion in 1986 from P11.1 billion in 1985, though the shortfall came back down to P16.7 billion in 1987.

Bloomberg



PHILIPPINE Airlines Inc. chair Lucio Tan delivers a message during the launching of the flag carrier's "Fly the Flag" campaign at the World Trade Center. Tan said two years after his group came to bail out the ailing airline, PAL was now "being hailed as a success story."

ROGER MARGALLO

Capwire uninterested in satellite

CAPITOL Wireless Inc. has declined to join a negotiated bidding for an orbital slot, saying it has no plan to send into space a communications satellite.

Epidacio Marquez, president of Capwire, a subsidiary of Republic Telecommunications Holdings Inc., said the company received an invitation from the Department of Transportation and Communications to submit a proposal. "However, we're not interested because it would be too expensive for us and launching a satellite is not our focus," he said.

Last month, the Department of Transportation and Communications asked Capwire and eight other telecom companies to submit proposals to secure an orbital slot that they can use to augment the services they provide.

The DOTC decided on a negotiated sale after two failed auctions for orbital slot 147 degrees East longitude on Oct. 23 and Dec. 15.

Among those invited, apart from Capwire, were Philippine Long Distance Telephone Co., Globe Telecom Inc., Bayan Telecommunications Inc., Eastern Telecommunications Philippines Inc. and Digital Telecommunications Philippines Inc.

PNB to pay central bank P15B in kind

BY CLARISSA S. BATINO

THE PHILIPPINE National Bank is set to settle a P15-billion debt it owes the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas through a "dacion en pago"—payment in kind—arrangement.

BSP Deputy Governor Alberto Reyes said in an interview yesterday that PNB, controlled by beer and tobacco tycoon Lucio Tan, could use its foreclosed real assets to pay for an emergency loan it obtained from the central bank on Oct. 6 last year.

"The P15 billion will be paid within the 180-day period, but it could be in cash or in assets," Reyes said.

He said the PNB loan would not be converted into a long-term obligation, as the bank earlier planned.

Among the assets to be surrendered to the central bank are the PNB Financial Center,

which has a book value of P4 billion and an appraised value of about P10 billion.

The country's fifth largest bank is saddled with one of the country's highest non-performing loans ratio. It has about P22 billion in real or other properties owned or acquired.

Reyes said the bank's rehabilitation program was on track and could be approved by the central bank in the coming weeks.

"We will not buy NPLs from PNB. As of today, the rehab plan schedule is on track," he said. The central bank earlier said PNB's rehabilitation plan should be approved within the month.

PNB plans to settle some P10 billion it owes the Philippine Deposit Insurance Corp. by transferring government liabilities to PDIC worth about P9 billion.

These debts include a P5-billion loan that the Bureau of Customs used to pay its obligations to Swiss inspection firm Societe Generale de

Surveillance and a P4.5-billion loan that a Philippine sugar trading company got from PNB under the Marcos administration.

The BSP and PDIC extended a P25-billion emergency loan to PNB in October last year.

PNB sought a short-term emergency loan to ease its liquidity problems. Critics tagged it as another "crony deal" of the Estrada administration, considering PNB was owned largely by Tan, one of former President Joseph Estrada's biggest campaign contributors.

PNB claimed it experienced heavy withdrawals in the last week of September to early October. Some in the industry, however, claimed only a few depositors with big stakes withdrew from the bank.

PNB never admitted the P25 billion it got from the BSP and PDIC was an emergency loan. PNB president Feliciano Miranda Jr. insisted it was part of the bank's rehabilitation plan.

BSP, SEC to sign memo defining roles

BY ELENA R. TORRIJOS

THE BANGKO Sentral ng Pilipinas and the Securities and Exchange Commission are set to sign a memorandum of agreement that will delineate their respective authority over banks, investment houses and financing companies.

The BSP and SEC engaged in a verbal tussle over who should be blamed for the failure of several investment houses last year. New laws and regulations also highlighted the need for the two agencies to work together in supervising financial institutions.

A draft of the memorandum of agreement shows that the central bank will focus on its primary responsibility to provide policy direction in the area of money, banking and credit matters while the SEC will focus on securities-related functions.

Both agencies have agreed to share information and findings regarding financial institutions operating without licenses or authorities.

The BSP will regulate securities issued by banks except stocks owned by the bank themselves, which will be registered with and regulated by the SEC.

Universal bank and their subsidiaries will have to register with the SEC before they can underwrite securities.

Investment advisers and managers that perform purely agency functions shall be outside the BSP's jurisdiction as long as they do not perform trust or quasi-banking functions and are not bank subsidiaries or affiliates.

PLDT to acquire Internet café chain

THE PHILIPPINE Long Distance Telephone Co.'s Internet arm said yesterday it would invest in a chain of Internet cafés.

A company official familiar with the situation said e-PLDT was now holding negotiations with a local company for a joint venture.

"I can't reveal the name of the company right now, but initially, e-PLDT would have a 40-percent stake in the joint venture. We already agreed that on the second year of the joint venture, e-PLDT would gain majority control," the source said.

He declined to say how much e-PLDT would invest in the Internet firm since negotiations were still ongoing.

Incorporated last year, e-PLDT is the principal corporate vehicle for PLDT's Internet, e-commerce and multimedia businesses.

Last week, e-PLDT said it invested P200 million for a new e-business security system company called mySecureSign Inc., which would help other companies and organizations do business over the Internet securely.

e-PLDT is now inviting strategic investors

for this new enterprise.

mySecureSign will be the certification authority for the issuance of digital certificates or signatures that have already been recognized by the Philippine e-commerce law passed last year.

The digital certificate or signature ascertains the identity of a person, for example, with a public or private encryption code in order to ensure authentication and privacy between networked users.

With mySecureSign's technology, online transactions would be made as secure as paper transactions.

Cement companies, builders disagree on issue of dumping

BY BOBBY TIMONERA
PDI Mindanao Bureau

ILIGAN CITY—Is the surge of imports in cement, or what the cement industry calls as "dumping," good or bad for the economy?

Opposing camps like the cement industry, the Department of Trade and Industry, and the construction industry could not seem to agree with each other in the first ever Mindanao cement industry congress held here.

But Tom Clough, the British chief executive of Alsons Cement Corp., is calling on the various sectors involved in the cement industry to talk and settle the problem.

Elmer Hernandez, executive director of the DTI's industry planning group, said the influx of imports was tolerated by the government to stabilize cement prices locally and prevent a shortage of cement supply.

He noted that cement prices averaged at P118 per bag during the first three quarters of last year, as against the P99.20 per bag the previous year. Local contractors said prices even went to as high as P127 per bag in December 2000.

Low-priced cement from neighboring countries, Hernandez said, was key to the importation of 24.1 million bags last year, apparently the highest volume imported so far.

The cement industry, through the Philippine Cement Manufacturers Corp., has been complaining that excessive cement imports, particularly from Taiwan and Indonesia, have severely affected the local cement industry.

Renato Sunico, executive vice president of Philcemcor and president of the Iligan Cement Corp., said dumped cement gobbled up more than 18 percent of the country's market share and 50 percent of the Metro Manila market.

"While Philcemcor does not object to imports, it is against dumped and injurious cement imports," he said.

He said unabated imports had already led to plant closures, including one in Iligan, resulting in the loss of thousands of jobs. Importers employ only 51 employees in cement silos.

Both Sunico and Clough said imports would be advantageous to the country and consumers in the long run.

"Local manufacturers will eventually stop expanding or die down," Sunico said. "Then we will depend solely on imports," he added.

Clough, on the other hand, pointed out that local consumers could not expect importers to

be kind enough to continue selling at a low price. He noted that in the case of steel, prices have gone up by 40 to 50 percent since the Iligan-based National Steel Corp. shut down operations late in 1999.

"The long-term danger is the lack of availability of cement products at a high price," Clough said.

Philcemcor noted that while cement prices in pesos may have gone up, these have actually gone down if computed in dollars.

Sunico said the cement industry rely heavily on power and fuel, which are dollar dependent. But members of the Iligan-Lanao Contractors Association are not convinced by Philcemcor's explanations.

"The cement industry must face the challenge poised by imports head on, and not by supporting a ban or cause the imposition of additional tariffs," said Almita Dasmariñas-Barog, president of the association.

She instead urged Philcemcor members to be "more competitive and efficient."

For the contractors, Barog said, opting for the cheap imports is "a matter of survival."

She cited an example the contractors who won in the bidding for government projects two years ago when price of cement was still P80 per bag, and the projects have not been implemented up to this day when price has gone up to P127.

"We did not want to import, we still don't want to import. But if our only way to survive is to import, then we will be forced to import," she said.

Barog said the only way for them to survive is to seek special pricing from local cement manufacturers or to simply choose the imports.

Clough said they are willing to talk to the contractors and are willing to have closer ties with the Philippine Contractors Association.

"There should be a compromise," he announced.

He added they are willing to tour contractors inside Alsons to show them how they have improved efficiency and where they have cut costs.

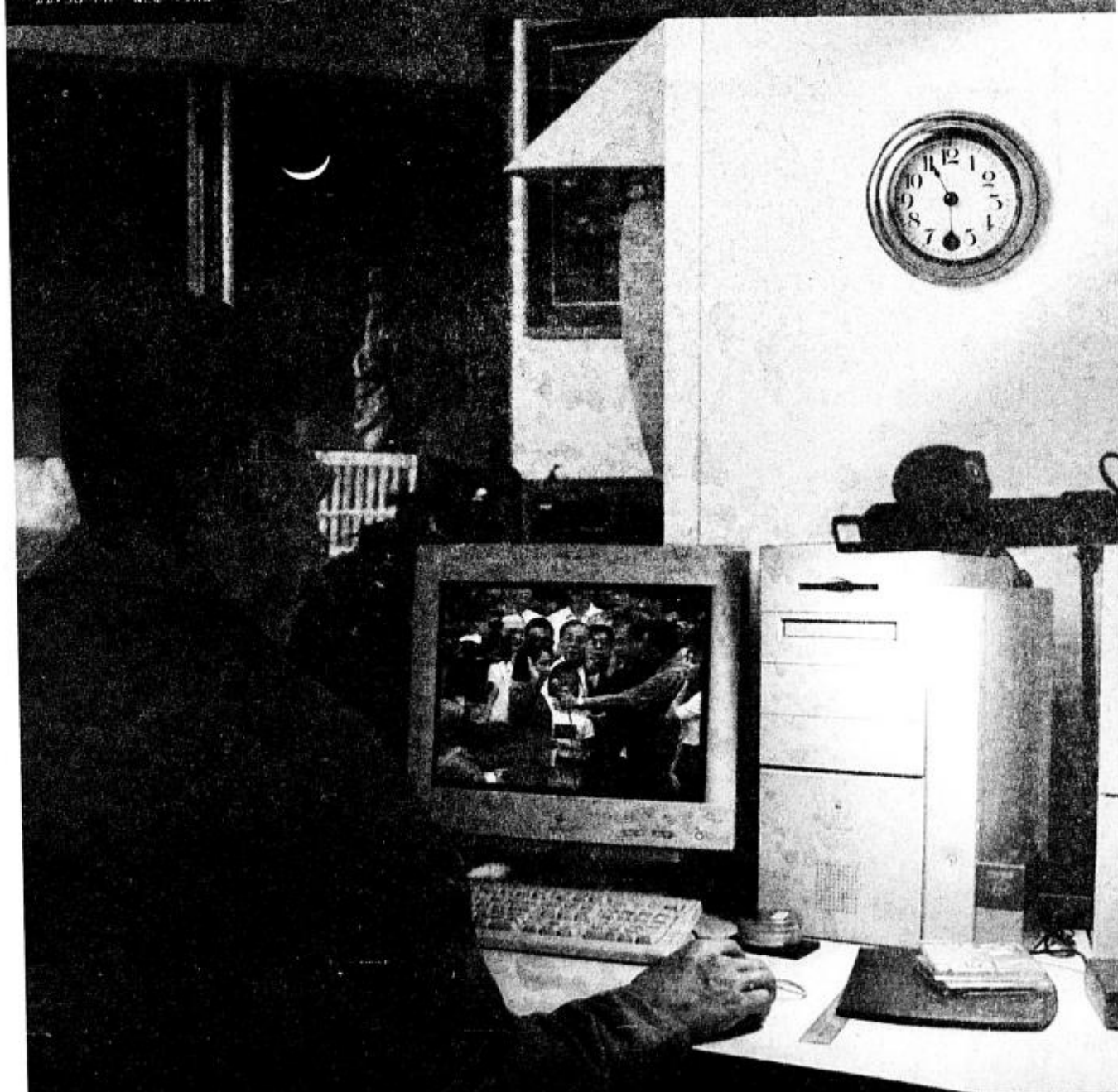
Clough likewise urged government to instruct contractors to use only locally manufactured cements. He also asked the National Power Corp. to improve its service because power interruptions "cost us a lot of money," noting that last year alone, Alsons' plant in Luga-it, Misamis Oriental experienced 35 power outages.

20 JANUARY 2001
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Re: sales figures
That's great!
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MAIL REPLY 1
I will see you next week.
Thanks!
ALAN

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INVITATION TO LEASE LAND

The Public Estates Authority, a government-owned corporation is leasing out through public bidding several vacant lots located in the Central Business Park I Island A, Roxas Boulevard Reclamation Area in Pasay City, with the following approximate areas and prescribed business use:

Business	Area in Square Meters
1. Car Exchange	3,000
2. Home Depot	4,000
3. Golf Range	17,600
4. Garden Nurseries	2,000

Interested parties may secure the Terms of Reference and other bid documents from the Cashier's Office at 7th Floor, Public Estates Authority, Legaspi Tower 200, Paseo de Roxas, Makati City from January 29 - February 2, 2001, upon payment of non-refundable fee of P500.00.

(Sgd.) JAIME R. MILLAN
Chairman, Asset Disposition Committee

(PDI - Jan 15, 20, 24, 2001)

Republic of the Philippines
CAGAYAN STATE UNIVERSITY
Gonzaga, Cagayan

NOTICE OF SEARCH AND CALL FOR APPLICATIONS

The Board of Regents formally and publicly announces that the Cagayan State University (CSU) presidency is now open, interested applicants are hereby advised to apply to the Search Committee for the next CSU Presidency headed by CHED Chairman Ester A. Garcia.

C/o Ms. Eleanor Imbang
Office of Commissioner Mona D. Valisno
Chair, Board of Regents, CSU
DAP Building, San Miguel Avenue,
Origas Center, Pasig City

THE MINIMUM QUALIFICATIONS ARE AS FOLLOWS:

1. A holder of a Ph.D. or EdD or any earned doctoral degree in related academic fields;
2. Must have five (5) years relevant managerial and administrative experience;
3. Must be a Filipino citizen.

Applicants shall be required to submit the following:

1. Comprehensive resumé
2. Vision of Cagayan State University
3. List of accomplishments in previous administrative and managerial positions
4. Birth Certificate, NBI, Ombudsman and Police Clearance and disclosure of all administrative and criminal cases.

Applicants are requested to submit five (5) sets of their formal applications and certified supporting documents not later than March 15, 2001.

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Office of the President

BCDA

Bases Conversion Development Authority

INVITATION TO PREQUALIFY TO SUBMIT PROPOSAL

The Bases Conversion Development Authority invites interested Banks with a valid trust license from the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas to submit Application to Prequalify and subsequently to bid, if pre-qualified as Bond Agent for the issuance of bonds to selected investors to finance BCDA Infrastructure projects.

The Bond agent shall, among others, collect interest and principal repayment as well as be responsible for servicing the bond to the bondholders.

Copies of the Pre-qualification Forms will be available from January 25 to 26, 2001 upon submission of Letter of Intent to the Chairman, Prequalification Evaluation and Award Committee (PEAC) and payment of a non-refundable fee of Pesos: One thousand (P1,000.00) at the BCDA Corporate Center, Gozar corner Lucas Streets, Villamor Air Base, Pasay City. Deadline for submission of duly accomplished forms shall be on 29 January 2001, no later than 5:00 PM.

BCDA deserves the right to reject any or all applications for prequalification and proposals or to waive any defect or require formality therein, and to award the project to the proponent whose proposal is most advantageous to BCDA.

Should you need any clarification regarding the project, you may get in touch with Ms. Hedda Y. Rulona, Tel. No. 551-3006 up to 11.

(Sgd.) ANTONIO REX CHAN
Chairman, Pre-qualification Evaluation
and Award Committee

(PDI - Jan. 23 & 24, 2001)

Office of the President

BCDA

Bases Conversion Development Authority

INVITATION TO PREQUALIFY TO SUBMIT PROPOSAL

The Bases Conversion Development Authority invites interested legal firms to submit Application to Prequalify and subsequently to bid, if pre-qualified as Legal Counsel for the BCDA Bond Floatation Program to finance BCDA Infrastructure projects.

The Legal Counsel will assist BCDA in the issuance of bonds in the following areas: (a) preparation of pertinent documents/agreements, (b) provision of advice with regard to information being disclosed/used for bond issuance, (c) secure rulings, opinions, or clearances from pertinent government agencies, (d) negotiation with underwriters, (e) advice on tax matters, and (f) legal advice on all stages and in all aspects on bond issuance.

Copies of the Pre-qualification Forms will be available from January 25 to 26, 2001 upon submission of Letter of Intent to the Chairman, Prequalification Evaluation and Award Committee (PBAC) and payment of a non-refundable fee of Pesos: One thousand (P1,000.00) at the BCDA Corporate Center, Gozar corner Lucas Streets, Villamor Air Base, Pasay City. Deadline for submission of duly accomplished forms shall be on 29 January 2001, no later than 5:00 PM.

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(Sgd.) ANTONIO REX CHAN
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REZ GOPEZ-SINDAC, Editor

Asian Hospital bags ISO accreditation

ASIAN Hospital and Medical Center (AHMC), a fast-rising acute care tertiary hospital in Muntinlupa City, successfully earned the ISO 9002 standards on Quality Hospital Operations Planning by the American National Standards Institute (ANSI).

The international recognition now puts AHMC among the roster of multi-national ANSI-accredited companies such as AT&T, General Electric, IBM, Johnson and Johnson, Microsoft, Nokia and US Medical Network LLC. Under the accreditation, these companies promote the use of US standards internationally and encourage the adoption of international standards as national standards where these meet the needs of the user community.

Established in 1918, ANSI was a founding member and one of the five permanent members governing the ISO, a worldwide federation of national standard bodies from some of 130 countries. ISO is a non-governmental organization founded in 1947 with the mission of promoting the development of standardization and related activities in the world to facilitate the international exchange of goods and services, and to develop cooperation in the spheres of intellectual, scientific, technological and economic activities.

Aside from adhering to quality management and services, AHMC's accreditation was also made possible by its ISO quality

consultant Neville-Clarke Philippines, Inc. and ISO accrediting body Veritas Quality International (BVQI).

Touted to be the flagship of world-class healthcare delivery in the country, AHMC revolves around the philosophy of providing a patient-centered care in a total healing environment. This revolutionary approach in healthcare delivery, which is widely practiced in the US, puts patients right at the center of every activity and entails knowing them as a person, caring for their physical, emotional as well as spiritual needs in order to achieve optimum health.

For more information in Asian Hospital, log on to its website at www.asianhospital.com.ph

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IF you are looking for a cleaner, safer and healthier drinking water, Tupuro Water Purifier is probably the best option to consider. Tupuro Water Purifier has been proven effective in eliminating harmful contaminants and chemicals without removing beneficial minerals and fluoride in water. Tupuro's first-layer filter removes sand, stones, rust, algae and other solid particles in water. The second layer consists of high-grade activated carbon that filters the germs, metals and chemicals while improving the taste, color and odor of your drinking water. Over the years, Tupuro Water Purifier is the choice of hospitals, offices, clinics, canteens, fastfoods and restaurants.

Master your handycam

ON-LINE Video Workshops Inc. will be offering a lecture and demo course titled "Handycam 101" on Jan. 27 from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. at Suite 906 Future Point Plaza I, 112 Panay Ave., Quezon City. Paolo Dy, director and producer, and non-linear editor for personal and industrial videos will be handling the course. Dy is a Communication Arts graduate of the Ateneo de Manila University who has just set up his own video production outfit called Northlight Productions. Dy will share with participants some common and not-so common camera tricks to get the best possible image from your handycams. For reservations, call Mavic or Malou at 412-9312 or 412-7895.

Seminar on real estate

A SEMINAR on Real Estate Brokering in the New Millennium and Update on Government Laws and Policies with Impact on Real Estate will be conducted by the Real Estate Brokers Association of the Philippines Inc. (REBAP) on Jan. 27, from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. at the Manila Galleria Suites, Ortigas Avenue, Pasig City. REBAP national president Janette SJ Hernandez said the seminar is intended to keep the participants abreast of the ongoing practices and trends in the realty industry. For more information call REBAP at 373-2280 to 81.

St. Theresa's College QC homecoming

ST. Theresa's College, Quezon City will hold its annual Homecoming Day on Jan. 27, 2001 at its school grounds on D. Tuzon St., Sta. Mesa Heights, Quezon City. This year's honorees are high school batches 1956, 1961, 1966, 1971, 1976, 1981, 1986, 1991 and 1996 and college batch 1971. Registration will start at 2 p.m. to be followed by a Mass at 3:30 and the homecoming celebration at 4:45. For more information, contact the St. Theresa's College, Q.C. Alumnae Association (STAA) at 740-0115 or the secretariat of Batch 1976 at 721-7411.

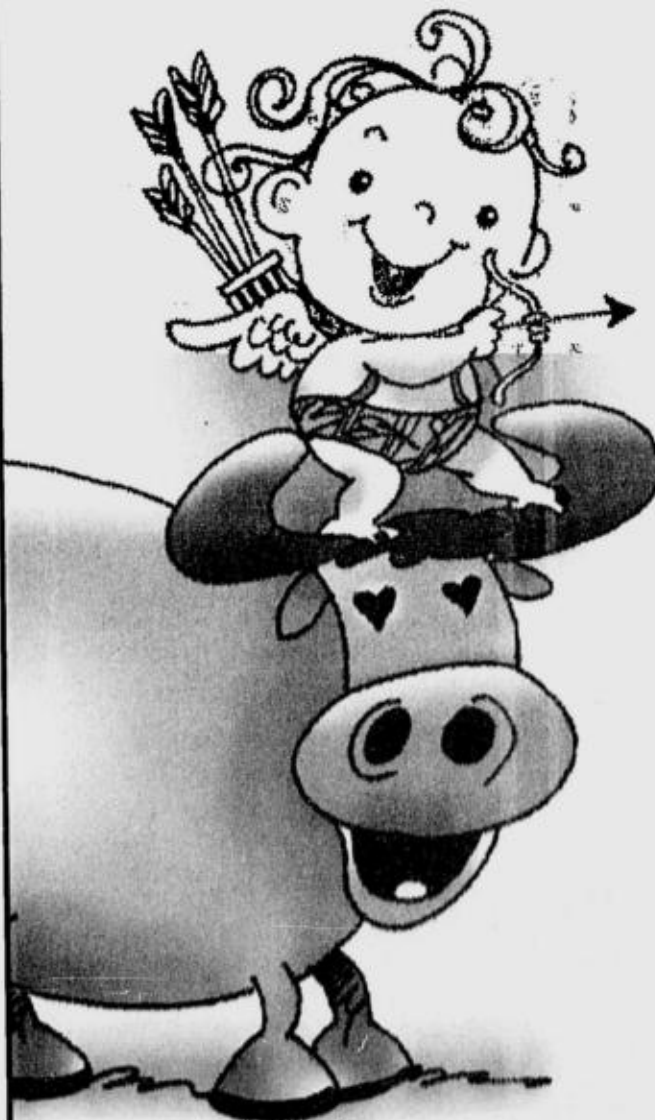
NDAP holds 46th convention

THE NUTRITIONIST-DIETITIANS' Association of the Philippines (NDAP), the accredited professional organization for nutritionist-dietitians by the Professional Regulations Commission will be holding its 46th annual convention on Feb. 28, Mar. 1-2, 2001 at the Manila Hotel. NDAP president Dr. Demetria Bongga announced that this year's theme is "ND's Challenging Roles in a Changing World: Where Do We Go From Here?"

Topics to be undertaken include Genetic Technology and the latest on Total Quality in Health Care. Break up sessions will allow more time for discussions on public health nutrition, food and food service management and clinical nutrition. The convention will also include technical tours for the participants and an exhibit featuring the country's top nutrition firms.

NDAP's general membership of over 1,000 are expected to be in attendance while dietitians from abroad and other allied health professionals have also been invited. Overall chair for the 46th convention is NDAP director Felicidad Volandria. Interested parties may contact NDAP at 845-1651 or email ndap@l-next.net

Sweet Nothings



This Valentine season, tell the world how much that special someone means to you—by writing that heartfelt love note in the widest read and circulated broadsheet in the Philippines. The INQUIRER now accepts personal ads for the Feb 14- issue dedicated especially to those you hold dearest to your heart, at a discounted rate of P55 per line or P165 per col. cm.

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 P200 per column centimeter
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DEADLINE
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OBITUARIES

Maj. Gen. Antonio V. de Veyra (Ret.)

of

Tanauan, Leyte

(Former Deputy Chief of Staff, PMA Class of 1935)

Died in the Grace of our Lord on January 8, 2001
 in Glendale, California, USA.

His bereaved wife Victoria Fargas de Veyra; children and children-in-law Bob & Florence Custodio, Tito (†), Linda & Mike Coco, Monette & Joey Yarisantos (†), Junie & Annie dela Rosa, and Tito & Karleen Wetherald; grandchildren and grandchildren-in-law Theresa & Clarence Guillory, Anna Vic, Didi, Bobby Jr. & Lynne Bautista, Yani & Farzam Hadi, Pinky & Richard Standing, Lee Robert, Anna & Reid Oshiro, Rica, Kevin, Colin, Cyril, Casey and Tony; great grandchildren Ritzzy, Hannah, Angela, Aryo, Armina and Isabel; and other relatives and friends request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

His cremated remains will lie in state at Our Lady of Peace Chapel, JUSMAG Area, Fort Bonifacio, Makati City on Thursday, January 25, 2001.

Necrological services will be held on Saturday, January 27, 2001 at 8:00 p.m. at the New St. Michael Chapel, Fort Bonifacio, Makati City after the 7:00 p.m. requiem Mass.

Interment will take place on Sunday, January 28, 2001 at the Libingan ng mga Bayani, Fort Bonifacio, after the 10:00 a.m. Funeral Mass at the New St. Michael Chapel.

The City Government of Marikina announces
 with deep sorrow the demise of its beloved
 former Mayor

GIL E. FERNANDO

who served from 1946-51; 1956-59

Peacefully joined his Creator
 on Monday, 22 January 2001 at the age of 95.

He is survived by his wife Remedios Flores and bereaved children and their spouses Patria and Eduardo Florencio, Ligaya F. Amilbangsa, Dalisay F. Lumba, Mayor Bayani and Marides Fernando, Mayumi and Cesar Bartolome; and grandchildren.

His remains lie in state at the Our Lady of the Abandoned Church (OLA), San Roque, Marikina City.

Necrological services will be held on January 25, 7:00 p.m. at the Marikina City Hall.

Interment will take place on January 26 at the Loyola Memorial Park, Marikina City, following the 2:00 p.m. Mass at the Marikina City Hall.

"Tungkulin ng pamahalaan na ipabatid sa pinakamaliit na mamamayan ang kanyang mga karapatan at tungkulin sa kapwa, sa batas at kay Bathala."

Gil E. Fernando
 1 Disyembre 1946

"I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in Me will live, even though he dies and whoever believes in Me will never die."

John 11:25-26

Prospero "Piring" Rivera

Of Angeles City

Died in the Grace of our Lord on January 22, 2001
 at the age of 69.

His bereaved wife Ludy; his loving children Marissa and Lito Hallare, Dotee and Famon Sanchez, Reden and May, Toyet and Gail, Poca and Beth, Dowee and Dodo Daquial, Cathy and Curve Kwancharoen, Dixie and Edith; grandchildren Danielle Ma., Nina Gabrielle, Bojit and Bonike, Raffie, Noykie and Chookie, Alexi, Ivan and Geo, Nikko and Colo; sisters Tita de Guzman and Gloria; brothers Anding, Bing and Rene; relatives and friends request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

His remains lie in state at The House of Many Mansions, along McArthur Hi-way (near La Pieta Memorial Park) Angeles City.

Interment will be on January 27, 2001. The exact time will be announced later.

DENIS AGUAS TAÑEDO

Joined his Creator on January 22, 2001
 at the age of 42.

He is survived by his parent Amado "Bobing" Tañedo and Esperanza Aguas Tañedo (†); brothers Bong and Linda, Arthur and Nancy; City Councilor Mike Tañedo, Eddie and Lily; nephews and nieces Irene, Bambam and Len, Pipo, Bambi, Jopi and Pian, Carrie, Timee, Sarah, Dojee and Deog; grandchildren Pochie, Pokay and Belay.

His remains lie in state at their residence at 101 Juan Luna Street, Tarlac City.

Interment will take place on January 27, 2001 after the 8:00 AM Mass at the Tarlac City Cathedral.

Our Dearly Beloved

Rosito Ambito Borreros, Sr.

of Batan, Aklan

Peacefully joined our Lord on January 19, 2001 at the age of 70.

His loving wife Clarita; children Ramon and Edel, Agnes and Clifford, Toto Jr. and Melanie, Rochelle and Nilo, Rowena, Pedro; together with grandchildren; brother Virgilio; sisters Rosang and Valing; relatives and friends, request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

His remains lie in state at 2700 Pinoy St., Balut Tondo, Manila.

Interment will be on January 27, 2001 at Loyola Memorial Park, Parañaque after the 8:00 a.m. Holy Mass at his residence.

In loving Memory of Our Dearest Dad

Dean Emeritus Elpidio Varquez Biliran, Sr.

Who in Grace joined our Father in heaven on January 23, 2001.

His wife Angelita (†); his children Malet, Menchie, Fr. Elpidio Jr., Fr. Joseph, Fr. Van, Brigitte Constance, Atty. GG, Seraphim, Cuckie, Barja, and Gine; his grandchildren Zazel III Joshua, Ezra, Felian, Justin, Kobi, Toni-Joy, Anna Michelle, Angela-Emille, Gabrielle, Louelle (†), Mikko, and Matthew; his sister, and in-laws Librada, Sis. Teofana SSPS, Serapio Dompier Jr., Boggs, Judge Jung, Anthony Eugenio, Florence, Glendell, and Raymond Joseph.

Thanks God for lending to us the gift of life in Dear Dad.

His body lies in state at their Fairview residence.

Cremation will be at Eternal Garden Crematorium, Caloocan on January 28, 2001 at 12:00 noon.

Danilo ("Lolot") Vizmanos Columna, Sr.

(of Gen. Trias, Cavite and Quezon City)

died in the grace of our Lord on January 22, 2001.

His bereaved wife Carlina Columna (nee Tamayo); children Lizele, Jun and Milla; grandchildren; sister Corazon C. Omega; nephews and nieces; other relatives and friends request pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

His remains lie in state at Nacional Memorial Homes, Chapel C-2, Araneta Avenue, Quezon City. Interment will be on January 27, 2001 at 10:00 AM at the Himilayang Pilipino Memorial Park after the requiem Mass.

Our Dearly Beloved

Rosa E. Galvez

of Tugatog, Malabon, Rizal

Peacefully joined our Lord on January 23, 2001 at the age of 71.

She is lovingly remembered by her husband Venancio; children Ding & Miriam, Lito & Lante, Normie, Bobet & Susan, Che & Christine, Romy & Ellen, Bobby & Vee; grandchildren and other relatives.

Her remains lie in La Funeraria Paz at Araneta, Quezon City.

Interment will be held on Saturday, January 27, 2001 at the Eternal Garden, Caloocan City at 10:00 in the morning.

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 again.

2 Cor. 4:14

Changing leaders, changing ourselves for real change

By MOJE RAMOS-AQUINO

LET me digress a bit from our Workshop on Setting Personal Goals, Objectives and Action Plans. Clearly, the triumph of Edsa 2 was the handiwork of God. The emergence and coming together of events, thoughts, feelings and sentiments that led to the humbling exit through the backdoor of the very macho ex-President Erap is beyond human capacity. We did not take things into our hands. We jointly asked for His Divine Intervention at the Edsa Shrine. This is the very ingredient that our neighboring countries lack in their own struggles for freedom and change.

Mabuhay ang Pilipinong magiting na nanindigan para sa kapakanan ng bayan at buong-buong kabataan loob na inihain ang lahat sa Kanya!

Healing quotes

May I offer these healing thoughts from the book, "A Little Book of Forgiveness," by D. Patrick Miller: "Sweet revenge is a junk food for the soul. The brief rush that revenge provides will always be followed by the degradation of one's character. There is a real joy to be found in setting things right, but that always involves changing oneself for the better first."

"Forgiveness does not mean letting error and evil continue unchecked but it does require us to help each other trace all our errors to their source: the idea that we have been abandoned here to die. In countless forms, this idea creates all the despair of the world. By striving to surrender the belief in abandonment, anyone can practice resurrection."

"Anger exiles hope to the mind's dark and stuffy attic, cluttered with other nostalgic curiosities. Forgiveness clears a space in the mind where hope finds enough room to devise practical strategies of change."

"Forgiveness is not mere sympathy, nor condescension, nor forced generosity. It is the ultimate declaration of equality, founded on the recognition that all crimes are the same crime, every failing the human failing, and every insult a cry for help."

Hopes

We are pinning our hopes on our new President Gloria to lead us into the changes that need to be done in order for our beloved Philippines to maintain this surge of high esteem and love of country among us Filipinos that we have shown as a people the past heady weeks. And I say lead because the real changes will have to occur in each of us. President Gloria is only one Filipino.

I am happy to note that Bong Austero, one active member of the Personnel Management Association of the Philippines (PMAP), has volunteered the idea for PMAP to offer the knowledge and skills of its members to conduct necessary human resource development interventions for the government offices to help in the transition from the old to this new leadership. Freddie Marquez, your move.

President Gloria needs all our individual and collective help in order to heal and put together again our economic, political, spiritual and social lives as a nation. She needs you. Our beloved Philippines needs you.

Suggestions

So what can you do to help individually? Well, you know who you are. You know what needs to be changed in yourself. And what can we do to help as a people? Let's act on this newfound pride as Filipinos in all our behavior, thoughts and speech. Here are a few suggestions:

- Let us live our good old traditional values that is embodied in the Golden Rule: Do not do unto others as you wouldn't want others to do unto you. Life is an endless give-take-give continuum.
- Be mindful of our environment. Don't litter as in physical basura or litter as in negative thoughts and unproductive time.
- Be caring and respectful of fellow Filipinos wherever we are. *Sa madaling sabi, kung ikaw ay driver, sumunod ka sa kautusang pang-trapiko at hindi mang-isa ng kapwa driver. Kung ikaw ay pulis, tandaan mo na ang trabaho mo ay protektahan ang mamamayan at ipatupad ang batas at hindi ang manakot ng tao at mangotong. Kung ikaw ay isang guro, ang responsibilidad mo ay magturo at hindi magtinda. Kung ikaw ay nagtitinda sa palengke, gumamit ng tamang sukatan at huwag mandaya sa timbang. Kung ikaw ay mangangalakal, magtubo lamang ng sapat at huwag gawing cash cow ang mga mamimili. Kung ikaw ay isang asawa, maging tapat sa iyong kabyak. Kung ikaw ay isang*

RECIPES for LEARNING

By Moje Ramos-Aquino



pari, ituton mo ang iyong pansin sa spiritual na kalinangan ng ating mga kapatid. Kung ikaw ay isang empleyado, magtrabaho ka nang buong sipag at husti. At marami pang iba.

Unique

• Think Filipino. Think big. Think high for our country and, eventually, the gains will filter to individual Filipinos. I will paraphrase my idol Dr. Felipe

Landa Jocano: *Kapag tinanggal mo na ang make-up niyang Estee Lauder, ang kilay na ginuhit sa Mongol, pabangong Bath & Body Works Vanilla Sugar Body Splash, damit na tatak Marks & Spencer at sapatos na gawa ng Bally, ang pagiging Pilipino ay nandoon pa rin kahit na kalapulan mo siya ng kung anu-anong banyagang gamit, salita o kalsipan.* The Filipino is unique.

• For the rich, especially our businessmen, think of the poor. Profits are okay but not when your customers are already paying for your products with their blood. Do share the opportunities with our poorer brethren. Opportunity is what separates the rich from the poor; everybody has the capacity and the capability to become what they want to be. You might want to take inspiration in the words of Bette Davis, "To fulfill a dream, to be allowed to sweat over a lonely labor, to be given a chance to create is the meat and potatoes of life. The money is the gravy."

• For the poor, rise above your station in life and not

wallow in being poor to just wait for charity. You are poor only because you think, act and feel you are poor. You are rich because you have the capacity, the capability and the right motive to be one. Dream on and seek that opportunity. William Somerset Maugham once said, "It's a funny thing about life if you refuse to accept anything but the very best, you very often get it."

Strength

• For Filipinos in positions of power such as those with moral, intellectual, economic, family and social ascendancy over others, always keep in mind that a position of power and strength is best recognized only when the people under or beneath you can stand on their own and are not dependent on you. I remember a quotation that goes "If I could see farther than anyone else, it is because I stand on the shoulders of upright men."

• For all of us, strengthen our faith in God who is all knowing and ever loving.

This is just the beginning. Let us do our bit for the more important task of national healing and nation building. Let us vigilantly watch over our young democracy. Text warriors Soky Viña, Ompong Caligdong, Edith Cabalu and Gigie Peñalosa all turn spiritual with this heartwarming message: "Everything that God allows to come our way is with a purpose. He uses even the gravest error and the deepest hurt to mold us into a person and a country of worth and value."

Next week, we shall continue our workshop.

(Send feedback to moje.ramos@aquino.zzn.com)

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How do you deal with a boss who smells bad?

MY boss smells really bad. When he comes into my office I can barely breathe. Recently, I bought a fan and whenever he comes in I try to point it in his direction, but it's the middle of the winter and he's starting to ask a lot of questions. Any advice?

Olfactorally challenged

I know a lot of people struggle for breathing room with their bosses but in your case, it sounds like things have really hit the fan. And I'm not surprised. Think about the air in your office. If it's like most offices (with those delightful

suicide-thwarting windows) 90 percent of it is recirculated and the other 10 percent is "fresh." Fresh what? Fresh smog. Add a little essence de boss and no wonder you need a fan!

Incidentally, you're not alone. According to a Working Wounded survey (conducted by GMA Research and KOMO-TV News), 31 percent of respondents reported that they have worked for a boss who smelled bad. But your question touches on an even larger issue: is it possible to raise such an embarrassing issue with your boss and live to tell the tale?

We turned to author and management consultant Paul Tomlinson who has dealt with this most "scents-itive" issue several times. He claims it is possible to raise the topic and still come up smelling like roses. Here are the questions he suggests you consider:

1. Can you raise the issue with your boss directly? (This is not a strategy for the new kid on the block or for the faint of heart.) Do it in private at a time when he's likely to be most responsive to your message. And even if you have a collegial relationship, leave the skunk jokes at home.

2. Can you send a message indirectly? Here's where your friends in HR come in handy. Most human resources departments have at least one diplomat on staff who's good at relaying difficult information. If your company doesn't have an HR department, then ask someone your boss respects to do the deed for you.

3. Can you learn to hold your breath during meetings? What can I say?

There are some things in life that just aren't worth bending your nose out of joint over, and if the two previous strategies don't cut it, this may be one of them.

But here's a little tip that may make taking action easier. Our survey discovered an interesting fact: only 27 percent of those surveyed said they'd say something directly to their boss. But when we asked if they were the boss what they'd want their employees to do, 61 percent said they'd like their employees to say something directly to them. So hard as it may be to believe, your boss probably wants to know. I'll leave it up to you to sniff out your best option.

Here are the results of the recent workingwounded.com poll: How would you deal with a boss who smells bad?

• Would send a message to them indirectly, percent

• Would tell 'em directly to their face, 29 percent

• Would learn to hold their breath during meetings, 46 percent

As the poll results show, most of you wouldn't bend your nose out of joint.

Pam from Renton spoke for the majority, "If no one else has told the boss it's probably because the results would be too unpleasant for the messenger. I'll keep my paycheck, rather than lose it over a too-personal remark."

WORKING WOUNDED

By Bob Rosner



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PEOPLE *at* WORK

RAUL O. MARCELO, Editor ■ REGINA GALANG REYES, Subsection Editor

Moral renewal in the workplace

BY ERNIE O. CECILIA

AS the text message says, it was Ouster Sunday after Sabado de Gloria and Good Friday. Hundreds of thousands of Filipinos went again to Edsa and suddenly, we have a new leadership at the helm of government. It's a bloodless turnover of power as usual, which happens only in the Philippines.

Will business pick up now? Shall we see a tremendous outpouring of the spirit? Shall we have a new morality, a new culture and a new way of life for Filipinos?

I hate to douse cold water on those who pin their hopes for the motherland on one person alone. The truth is that no one man or woman can change more than 70 million Filipinos in one sweep, perhaps not even in the lifetime of the leader.

Many great minds have diagnosed the ills of our country and most are in agreement that the basic problems are leadership and morality. I will not argue with these issues but would like to add that the problem rests not just with the leader but with the led as well.

An unknown source once said that, "Some citizens are so good that nothing a leader can do will make them better. Others are so incorrigible that nothing can be done to improve them.

But the great bulk of the people go with the moral tide of the moment. The leader must help create that tide."

The people have proven their point. They have aptly pointed out what was wrong with the old leadership. Now, it's time to work with the new leadership for moral renewal across the land. Tough job? Of course, but we must all start somewhere.

Many of those who thronged to Edsa were ordinary employees who did an extraordinary thing—topple a corrupt leader. Going back now to their workplaces, how can they ensure the continuity of this moral victory at Edsa? For one, they can use their energies to ensure a moral renewal in the workplace. How? Here are some lessons and tips.



ILLUSTRATION BY ALBERT RODRIGUEZ

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1. Know that leaders have limitations.

Steven Berglas of the Harvard Medical School believes that "people who achieve great heights but lack the bedrock character to sustain them through the stress are headed for disaster."

He predicts that one or more of the four As could result when a leader does not have the requisite character—arrogance, aloneness, adventure-seeking or adultery.

The people must understand that leaders cannot rise above the limitations of their character.

2. Choose character.

John C. Maxwell is right in his observation that, "We have no control over a lot of things in life. We don't get to choose our parents. We don't select the location or circumstances of our birth and upbringing. We don't get to pick out talents and IQ. But we do choose our character. In fact, we create it every time we make choices."

In the workplace, you can create your own character. Do you want easy money or work for it? Do you keep the right company? Do you stand by your principles? You can, if you choose to.

3. Walk the talk.

Integrity is important in the workplace. In fact, many employers prefer to have employees with integrity first, then, skills second. Skills can be taught but integrity is innate in one's character.

Companies would do well to recognize integrity, instill it in their employees and put in enough safeguards to make people truly honest.

4. Avoid compromising.

While life is not just black or white but shades of gray, there are instances when you have to choose between right and wrong. A wrong can never be right even if a compromise is reached.

If workers really want straight leaders, they must be vigilant and uncompromising in asserting their rights as well as in performing their responsibilities. When compromises are made, the rest of the organization, the buying public and the society are affected.

5. Use the same measures on yourself.

You want a leader who is not immoral, corrupt or incompetent. Exact the same measure or standards on yourself. Be as harsh on yourself as you are in judging others. That you are just a follower is never an excuse for being lazy, incompetent or immoral.

Albert Einstein once said, "A hundred times everyday I remind myself that my inner and outer life are based on the labors of other men, living and dead, and that I must exert myself in order to give in the same measure as I have received and am still receiving."

6. Face the mirror.

If you want one less scalawag in the workplace, reform yourself. Look for areas for improvement in your character. If you have the guts, ask somebody you trust to tell you what is wrong with your character.

Take the feedback positively as a gift for your improvement. Don't rationalize but instead work at developing a better you.

7. Show the mirror to your leaders.

If you want honest and concerned leaders, you might just have to show them the mirror, too. Some of them might have blind spots and can't see their mistakes, shortcomings and transgressions.

Remember that tyrants happen only when the led blindly accept tyranny or do not do anything about it. To make leaders honest, they must know that they are also being watched and evaluated, and that positions and possessions are only temporal and ephemeral.

8. Don't just admit mistakes; correct them.

People who do not know that they are wrong cannot be corrected. The first step towards any form of renewal is admission that there is a need for correction.

Humility to admit mistakes is great but not enough. There must be correction. Even the Bible warns us in Proverbs 29:1 that "A man who remains stiff-necked after many rebukes will suddenly be destroyed—without remedy."

9. Have an improvement plan.

Do not leave to chance the matter of improving yourself. Moral renewal does not happen by accident. You must exert deliberate effort to mend the cracks in your character.

Task yourself to show improvements. Have reasonable milestones that you must monitor and check regularly. Then, celebrate your little victories. But do not boast about your achievement if humility is the virtue you are trying to instill in yourself.

10. Rebuild and don't slide back.

Set your mind toward the future. Stop going back to the past, except to see how much you have progressed. Let your guideposts be milestones in the future and not how you were before.

If you have improved in a facet of your character, make sure that you don't slide back. Be not like the dog that eats his own vomit.

Never underestimate what ordinary people can do, especially when they heed the call of one leader who was killed in Dallas, almost four decades ago, "...ask not what your country can do for you; ask what you can do for your country."

For feedback or suggestions, call 02-8634-1010



LIFESTYLE

An Edsa 2bU Scrapbook

Stories and images from a people's struggle

CHELO BANAL-FORMOSO, Editor

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THERE is no doubt about it. The youth played a major role in People Power 2. The 2bU! Correspondents spent days and nights in Edsa, along with hundreds of thousands of other Filipinos, in our desire to express our indignation and anger. The rallies ended in triumph, with Erap ousted from his presidential seat and Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo taking over.

What we thought would be a grim memory in the distant future will now remain to be something bright for all of us. It was our chance to prove to our elders that our lives do not just revolve

around music videos and texting (although thumb power also played a major role in this story). This was our chance to show them that we do care about our country and our future. We are young, we are capable and we can make a difference. People Power 2 was our fight, too. And we won the battle.

In the next few pages, you will see rallyists' essentials, Edsa stories and images from the four days we spent fighting for democracy. These are four days we will forever remember, and will be looked back upon by our future children and our children's children.

FINALLY, I was able to go and be a part of Episode II. Not the Episode II with Queen Amidala and Luke Skywalker falling in love, but the episode with thousands of people gathering at Edsa to force former President Estrada to resign.

I was only 3 when People Power I happened. I only had documentary tapes, coffee-table books, pictures and textbooks to relive the Edsa spirit. I remember how my soc-sci teachers would define "people power" like being in a rock concert. "It's like if you guys wanna see Nirvana without the front-row tickets, you have to sacrifice and scream your lungs out for a better view or for him to play 'Smells Like Teen Spirit.'"

Then after 15 years, I was able to experience the Edsa feeling. The first rally I went to was the one on Ayala Avenue last October. It's a good thing I'm an irregular student because when I don't have class I can go to the rallies. After attending a couple of rallies on Ayala, it has become an addiction for me. Just being there in the middle of a large and angry crowd gives me a sense of nationalism. I was always with my mom or my dad since my school doesn't really like the idea of students going to rallies. It was always hot and it rained once during the prayer rally in Edsa. I also got thirsty all the time and I always had to go to the toilet in the middle of the program. I always screamed in delight whenever Luis "Chavit" Singson would come out.

I went to 10 rallies, including Kompil II and the Jericho March and two impeachment trials. The best of the best happened on Tuesday night. "Eto pala 'yung People Power" I said to myself. How I wish I were in 2nd grade again. I would have gotten a perfect score in the People Power II quiz since I was able to experience the hype.

The merchandise was another thing. And I thought the "Star Wars" figurines were the only collectibles. I started out with the plain "silent protest" sticker but now my collection consists of shirts, stickers, lighters, name tags, caps, buttons, the white album and the Erap doll. I'm also trying to collect the front pages of different publications especially the ones with ugly pictures of Erap.

Now I know it would be easy for me to camp outside

the theaters for "Star Wars: Episode II." If I was able to rally in Edsa for three days to kick out the Dark Force of Malacañang, then camping out in the cold to find out how Luke Skywalker became Darth Vader wouldn't be a problem.

Tammy David

AN EDSA/ p. C2

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Also available at the following outlets:

A2 721-5943, Anaheim Bus. Corp. 534-3454, Cellway Technologies 725-3363, Dialogue Communication 633-7641, EPMC 631-3710, Games and Gadgets 727-5260, Globotel 888-0104, Jade Telecoms 733-3176, Jel Trading 681-5437, MemoExpress 681-7487, Mesghie Trading (Davao City) (082) 221-7207, Mobile 1 634-4728, Mobile Express 634-5891, Next Issue 721-1404, Orange Communication 725-0924, Power Mobile Corp. 725-0476, Q Solutions (Iligan City) (033) 335-0095, Tecumseh Telecoms 725-3751, Telecom Concepts, Inc. 671-6601, Teletec (Cebu City) (032) 254-4343, TID/Wellcom 734-9034, Topwin 527-0923, Touchtel Marketing 637-9047, Y2K (Baguio City) (074) 304-1367, Alfa 1 Telecoms 636-6155, Audionet Trading (Cebu City) (032) 233-3255, Wireless Connections 816-4224, Wintelecom, Inc. 521-17921



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THE BLUE Eagles at the Jericho March
(From page C1)



SPOT the INQUIRER people in this photo.

An Edsa 26U Scrapbook

AFTER A BAD day at work, I was at Friday's Glorietta, trying to soothe my nerves while having a late dinner alone. It was the evening of Jan. 16.

"Ay! Hindi pa pala tapos," a woman at the table next to mine loudly remarked. I glanced toward the direction she was pointing at and saw the impeachment trial being shown in one of the restaurant's television screens. The volume was turned off and I didn't notice anything unusual. I turned back to my food.

Minutes later, I received a message from a friend. "all dis criminals on TV! cant beliv it! wat gall!" I still had no idea what he was talking about. I sent him a question mark. He replied, "d impeachment, idiot" and proceeded to explain what happened. I dropped a chicken finger back onto my plate. I lost my appetite.

I was on my way home with my family and messages wouldn't stop pouring in. A message from my editor telling me about the noise barrage, another message from Jason who was crying, duplicate messages telling me to go to Edsa and to wear black. "lets wear blak tom 2 mourn d death of truth and justice in our country. Pas dis to others 4 d lovê of our country." Forward I did. And yes, I wore black the next day.

The noise barrage was scheduled at 11 p.m. I glanced at the clock. It was 11:26. "Why aren't people honking their horns?" Then, I heard the beautiful harmony of the cry for democracy. People along the Elliptical Road slammed their hands onto their car horns, hazard lights blinking. I had tears in my eyes and goose bumps all over. I felt love for the Filipino people. My faith in them had been restored. We joined the noise barrage all the way home. I made plans with an officemate for an assassination.

For weeks, the trial had the eyes of millions of people riveted to their television screens, leaving soap operas and telenovelas in the dust. The weird characters, the hilarious bloopers—the impeachment turned into a freak show. With these politicians as the actors and the Filipino people, the audience. That night, I believe, for most of us, the truth finally began to sink in. It was not a show. That was reality. Our life. Our future. What we were seeing on TV will not end with the push of a button. It's our country that the idiots are screwing up.

Jan. 16 was a day of firsts for me. I never cried for my country before. But as I sat down at home, writing, fresh tears continued to roll down my cheeks. I never felt so strongly for strangers before. But I am filled with admiration and love for Aquilino Pimentel, Raul Roco, Loren Legarda and all the others who stood up for our country. My heart is overflowing with hatred for all the selfish creatures who have put themselves and their interests first, putting the country they are supposed to be serving way down in their list of priorities. I am disgusted. How can they stomach that deception? Then again, when I think about how the human race has produced mass murderers, serial killers and rapists, I tell myself that I should not at all be shocked. They are well-dressed criminals. Animals in suits and ties.

At home, I stayed glued to the TV, watching the news. Text messages still wouldn't stop coming. I cannot begin to explain how I felt. Helpless. Scared. Angry. Seething. Frustrated.

The next few days found me either in Edsa or at home making posters and watching the news. Turning my TV to HBO even for just a second filled me with immense guilt. I spent hours basking in the presence of my fellow Filipinos, our indignation building an immense wave of anger. For days we watched one miracle after another happen. At the



SIGNS OF THE TIMES. Angry and indignant Filipinos blow their steam the posted way.

NOT JUST IN EDSA. On Ayala Avenue, even kids are vigilant.



same time, one idiot after another stumbled over themselves trying to win the hearts of the Filipinos back. How re-electionists quickly let go of their principles and jumped to the other side of the fence. How the dancing queen made excuses about her actions on TV. And how one very cocky senator tried telling the President to resign in big bold letters by buying one full page of a newspaper—a newspaper which, to everyone's knowledge, is never read by Erap. Who are these people trying to fool? They are supposed to be older and wiser. Let me stress, "supposed to be." What an embarrassment. It's so pathetic that it's hilarious.

Finally, after four days, and delayed deadlines, he decided to quit. Not without using the media to try and get the sympathy of Filipinos for the last time. I'm sorry. But for most of us, it did not work at all.

The crisis is over. It's time to move on. We young people will continue to watch closely. Let's hope they don't mess up this time. We will not hesitate to fight for our country again. *Pamela Angela Salomon Pastor*

AN EDSA/ p.C4

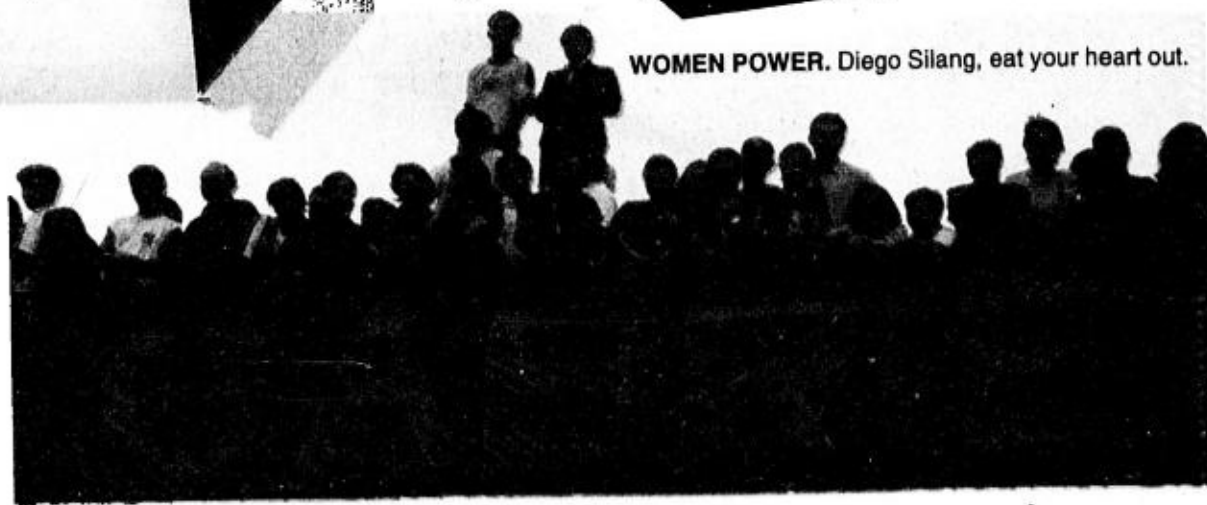


WHAT'S NEXT? "I survived Erap" T-shirts?

TESSIE ORETA POK!

11 HUDAS SA SENADO!

NASTY, NASTY. Who's to say they don't deserve it?



WOMEN POWER. Diego Silang, eat your heart out.

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ABS CBN

Via the menu-based convenience of **GlobeXplore**



1 First, click MENU on your phone and scroll to select GlobeXplore.



2 Click on NEWS from the categories that will be shown on the screen.



3 Click on your preferred news source (ex. CNN.)



4 Click on desired category (ex. Breaking.)

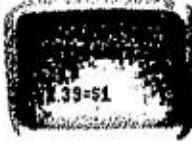


5 You will receive a text message containing news from CNN.

Via the familiar text-based key words of InfoText



1 To get forex info from ABS-CBN, key in ABSCFOREX and send to 2333.



2 You will receive a text message on the latest forex rate.

Via the on-line convenience of WAP



1 If you're a first time WAP-user, type the keyword of your phone type* and send it to 2333. The WAP phone configurations will be sent to you. Follow the settings and configure your phone.

*The keywords are:

• For Nokia 7110 and 6210-nokiawap • For Ericsson R320s-ericssonwap

• For Siemens H35-siemenswap • For Motorola T2288-motorolawap



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3 You will then see a prompt advising you that you are being connected to the service.



4 Once connected, the Globe Homepage will appear. Click on the News category and WAP away.

(From page C2)

I FORCED myself up this morning and thought, "Hell, everything is over." During those four days, I felt the invincibility of the Filipinos as a nation. In a way, it restored my pride in my people, after having painfully swallowed the fact that I was under Estrada for two years. Finally, that agonizing truth is no more, and now I miss the camaraderie we shared with fellow Filipinos who for once, stopped being strangers to us.

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I sat in front of the television screen and let the news flood my mind. Seeing the people take out their anger into the streets assuaged the inner rage bottled up inside me. As I have no means to go to Edsa—therefore, no way to express my disgust—I sat in front of the computer and let that disgust take the form of an essay. Needless to say, the cretinous lady-senator took most of my streaming profanities.

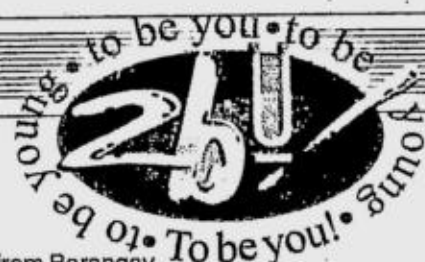
After that night, the anger and sadness of the rallyists turned to joy with the realization that there is the chance of ousting Estrada out through the demonstration. It was a rave party of sorts; an underground movement that surfaced as a mainstream event. With Cardinal Sin as the DJ, the music was the voice of the people chanting, "Erap resign!" like the repetitive beat of trance music. No pill was needed to heighten the effects of the movement. It was our goal of driving Estrada out of office that served as a reason for us to embrace everyone—poor or rich—with openness.

By Friday, everyone was in high spirit. Three days of active vigilance did not tire us out, especially with the news that the Estrada government just collapsed. It was just a matter of waiting. Waiting for Estrada to resign, waiting for our future to take its course. Finally, I really felt what People Power was like. It wasn't like how they described it in history books. People Power is a phenomenon that grasps your heart like a miracle unfolding right in front of you. To understand it, one has to experience it. And its effect has duly taken its path last Saturday, when a new president was sworn in to govern over the people.

SHE always has the best seat in the house.



AN ANIMAL lover from Barangay RJ



FASHION the Edsa way

An Edsa 24/7 scrapbook



2bUI correspondent Tammy David (left) with her sister Happy



TAMMY'S framed copy of Pinoy Times' first edition signed by Chavit Singson

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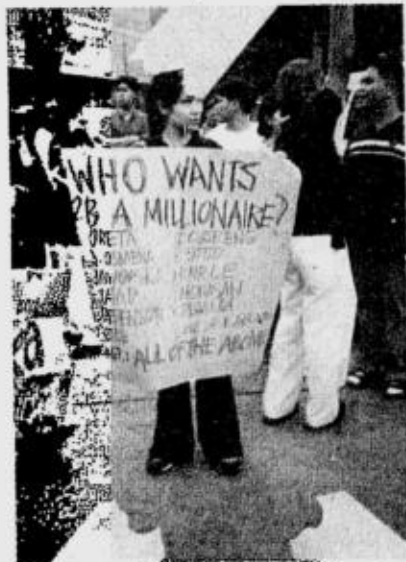
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THE POWER of youth

(From page C2)

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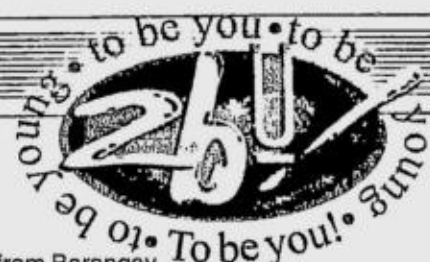
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THE POWER of youth

A concert by children

THE UP Cherubim and Seraphim presents "Awit Pambata: A Concert by Children" on Jan. 29, 7 p.m. at the UP Abelardo Hall Auditorium. The concert highlights musical settings of traditional and contemporary poetry for and by children. To be premiered will be "Kapilang Buhay," an original commissioned work featuring poetry by the children of the group set to music by young composer, Christine Muyco. Also featured will be "Ako'y Munting Tinig" by Roger Williams to the original Filipino text by Odina Batnag; "Awit Pambata," with words and music by Heber Bartolome; "The Diary of Dickens," with poems by Emily Dickenson, and "The Duel," with text by Eugene Field.

The Cherubim and Seraphim, the official children's choir of the University of the Philippines, consists of 40 children from the UP Integrated School. In its 29 years of existence, the group has championed the development of a unique Philippine repertoire for children, commissioning new works and arrangements by Philippine composers and encouraging them to experiment in this important artistic medium. It is currently directed by Elena Rivera Mirano of the College of Arts and Letters. Tickets are available at the UP College of Music, Dean's Office.



Chowking welcomes the Chinese New Year with a new promo

Tikoy fans, rejoice!

Chowking celebrates the coming of the Chinese New Year with a special promo for all you tikoy enthusiasts! Any purchase of any Chowking treat at any Chowking store entitles you to a piece of paper to be drawn out of glass bowls specially situated inside Chowking stores. These pieces of paper correspond to exclusive Chowking goodies and giveaways which lucky customers have a chance to win. Aside from sweet chocolate treats in the form of gold coins, luckier customers have a chance to take home a special tikoy made exclusively by Chowking!

New Year cakes or Nian Kao, as the Chinese call them, are a popular Chinese New Year delicacy. An age-old Chinese tradition dictates that on the twelfth month, the kitchen god returns to heaven to report on the doings of each household. To assure a good report, householders bribe the god with rice candy, sticky rice balls, and Nian Kao or tikoy.

This coming Chinese New Year, treat yourself with the same heavenly delight, as Chowking gives away these special tikoy for free!

Experience great taste and good fortune from these luscious New Year cakes, only from Chowking—
Dito kumakain ang masarap kumain!

Kung Hei Fat Choi!

ADVT.

TIKOY TREAT!

Celebrate your good fortune and get a chance to win Chowking Tikoy when you eat at Chowking on January 24, 2001.

Chowking

Know all the gimmicks,
go places and have fun
with your Globe Handyphone.

Restaurant.
Nice!

Concert here

Movie

New bar!

Exhibit?

Play?

Party!

Gig tonight

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HANDYPHONE

It's all in your hands.
Hotline: 730-1000 / www.globe.com.ph

ClickTheCity.com

localvibe.com

worldroom.com
We Make Business Trips Work

doAsia

Whatever your kind of cellphone, finding fun is always easy.

Via the menu-based access of **GLOBEXPLORE**



First, click MENU on your phone and scroll to select GlobeXplore.



Click on INFO from the list of categories that will be shown on the screen.



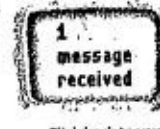
Click on ENTERTAINMENT.



Click on your preferred service and GlobeXplore will retrieve it for you.



Your requested service or info will be sent to you via a text message.



Click back to your phone's main page to retrieve your request.

Via the familiar text-based access of **InfoText**



Key In CTCH and send to 2333 to get a list of all cinemas.



Key In CTCM CINEHA and send to 2333 to get a movie list in each cinema. ex. CTCM GLO4



Or key in BANDS and send to 2333 to get a band list.



Then key in BANDS NAME OF BAND and send to 2333 to know where a specific band is playing.

Via the on-line convenience of **WAP**



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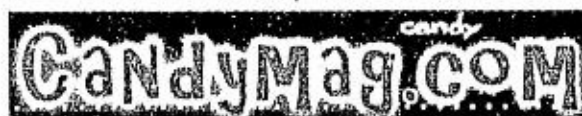
MOOD SWINGS

CAREER MOVES

GLOBE HANDYPHONE UNDERSTANDS!

Access the country's leading websites that deal especially with feminine issues!

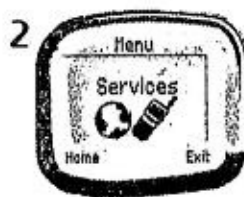
Teens will find a new best friend in CandyMag.com. While the FemaleNetwork provides a well-spring of wisdom and information for the modern woman. Be entertained, enlightened, informed and inspired anytime you need it, anywhere you may be, only through Globe Handyphone!



Access through Globe WAP:



If you're a first time WAP user, type in the keyword (specific to your phone type) and send it to 2333 and the WAP phone configurations will be sent to you. The keywords are:
• For Nokia 7110/6210-nokiawap • For Siemens M35-siemenswap
• For Ericsson R320s-ericssonwap • For Motorola T2288-motorolawap
Follow the settings and configure your phone.



If your WAP handset is already configured, then go to the services menu of your WAP-capable phone and click on Home.



You will then see a prompt advising you that you are being connected to the service.



Once connected, the Globe Homepage will appear. Click on the Female Views under the Entertainment Category and WAP away!



PHOTOWORLD MANILA 2001

JANUARY 25-30

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Southeast Asia's largest and longest running photo show opens today

PHOTOWORLD Manila 2001 makes the big leap to tomorrow's technology by showcasing the convergence of still photography, digital still and video photography, and computer manipulation or desktop darkroom. Never before in the 162-year history of photography has so much control, so much creative power, been placed in the hands of photographers, both amateur and professionals.

The trade exhibition features the latest in film and digital photography, tape and digital video cameras, film emulsions, scanners, and photo-quality desktop printers. Visitors will be treated to print exhibit of fine arts and award-winning photographs while a photo exhibit in video format will be shown on a giant video wall at the central exhibit area, a first in PhotoWorld Manila. City Lite 88.3 is the official radio station.

The exhibit will offer big discounts on the latest photo equipment. A first in PhotoWorld Manila, the exhibit has a tie-up with BPI Card to offer visitors zero-interest deferred payment.

Informative sessions on video, imaging, and photography will be provided by four foreign speakers invited from abroad and eight Filipino and Philippine-based foreign speakers.

Major trade exhibitors include: Canon, Fujifilm, Island Multi-Industrial Sales, Kodak, Konica, Mitsubishi Color Film, Nikon, Olympus, Sony, and World-Aire Photo & Imaging Center. Secondary trade exhibitors are: Miruco Images, Daiichi Colour stock photography, Alp Manila, Visio Studio Lights, All Visual & Lights

Systems, Wizen Photo Equipment, Mega Frame House.

There will also booths from Soleta Photo Supplies, Glee Electronics, JVC Video Equipment, Island Multi-Industrial Sales, Paparazzi Photographers' Vests, Dimayuga Photo Equipment, Absolut Marketing.

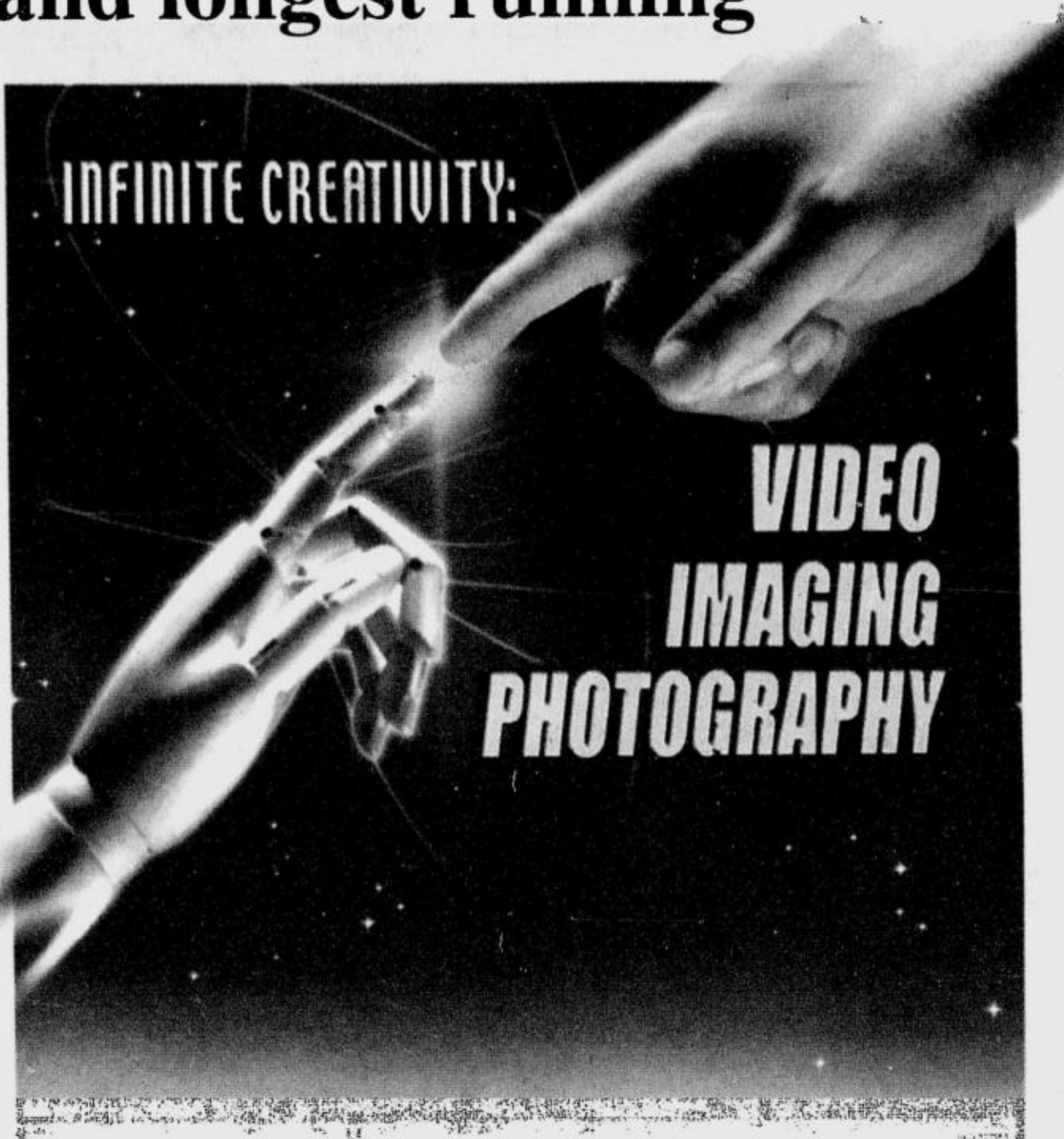
Uplifting Filipino photographers

The force behind the exhibit, the Federation of Philippine Photographers Foundation (FPPF) was created in 1987 for the upliftment of Philippine photography and the welfare of Filipino photographers. The FPPF encourages cooperation rather than competition among polarized photography associations—of which the Philippines has more than enough.

Photographers saw in FPPF a unifying organization around which they could rally, with which they could work, and from which they could all benefit. And this meant everybody—not just a particular group.

The FPPF has the support of both the seller and the buyer—the manufacturers and dealers on one hand, and the photographers on the other. It has channeled this support into such activities as national and international trade shows and conventions, like the PhotoWorld Manila, photo contests, book projects, tourism and travel events, even socially relevant projects like aiding the plight of senior citizens, the handicapped, and the lahar victims of Mt. Pinatubo.

In all, the FPPF has justified its existence by helping photographers and the industry break out of its photographic shell and go into more relevant endeavors that benefit not just themselves but society as a whole.



Canon Digital Camera highlights in Photoworld Manila 2001

CANON, a world leader in the cameras and lens industry, brings to consumers its state-of-the-art digital camera products in today's Photoworld Manila 2001 exhibit at the Glorietta Mall in Makati. These products will be showcased from Jan. 24-31, 2001. Experience the dawn of the digital age in photography as Canon staffers demonstrate how to take photos using the digital cameras, download through the computer and print the pictures with desktop printers. Current models like Digital IXUS and PowerShot S20 will be on exhibit. Two new digital cameras will be introduced. The fully featured PowerShot G-1 and the digital SLR camera EOS D30 will make its debut in the Philippine market.

Digital IXUS-ELPH – Stylish, compact and powerful

This is the digital camera everyone is raving about. It's small enough to fit the palm of your hand and it's flat enough to fit into your pocket. The Digital IXUS is the smallest most compact 2.1 megapixel camera.

In spite of its small size the Digital IXUS/ELPH is packed with the powerful features you need to take a digital picture. The Digital IXUS/ELPH has a 2.1 megapixel CCD and high quality Canon 2x Optical/4x Digital Zoom Lens to capture brilliant and clear photos. It also has various shooting modes wherein you can adjust the resolution, exposure, white-balance and even make your picture black and white. AE and multi-mode flash control with three-point AF makes framing a snap. The USB interface allows instant connectivity to your PC or Mac. The Digital IXUS/ELPH comes with an 8 MB CompactFlash Card that can store up to 61 photos in small format and normal compression.

PowerShot S20 – High-resolution, compact size

Do you want richly dense and incredibly clear images? The PowerShot S20 is the camera you need. The PowerShot S20 has an elegant, sturdy all-metal body

loaded with numerous features including a 6.5-13mm (equivalent to 32-64mm in 35mm format) 1/2.9-4 all-glass, aspherical zoom lens that enhances sharpness while minimizing distortion. Built-in 2x and 4x digital teleconverters extend the zoom range of the lens to 8x when used in conjunction with its 2x optical zoom capabilities.

Other advances features include the Mode dial located on top of the camera and the Omni-selector on the back. These enable centralized access to all the camera's features and provide ease of use. Photos taken by the PowerShot S20 are indistinguishable from those taken by 35mm cameras. This makes it ideal for discerning people who want high quality pictures anytime.

PowerShot G1 – Fully featured digital photography made easy

The new Canon PowerShot G-1 tops the PowerShot-series and stands out from all other models in the highly competitive 3-megapixel, 3x zoom digital camera category. It offers a comprehensive set of desirable features including a variable-angle LCD monitor that rotates up to 270 degrees, plus full compatibility with Type I and II CompactFlash memory cards, including high-capacity IBM® microdrives.

It looks, feels and operates like a conventional 35mm camera that makes the transition to digital easier. Various camera features ranging from Canon's "Green Zone" for fully automated operation to multiple manual settings make the G-1 attractive for different users. The G-1 makes digital photography both easy and fun for everyone.

EOS D30 – Exceptional images with Canon's digital and SLR technology

Once again Canon comes up with an amazing breakthrough in digital SLR photography. We are talking about the EOS D30. This camera is a high-speed, high-end, high-quality camera demanded by professionals and discerning photographers.

CANON/C9

Canon

Think this was shot with a professional 35mm camera?



Think again! You can shoot it with the new PowerShot G1, the ultra-high resolution digital camera with features normally reserved for professional SLRs.

Only the new Canon PowerShot G1 digital camera is equipped with advanced features, such as 3.3 megapixel clarity, Canon high-resolution zoom lens, speed & aperture priority plus auto-exposure bracketing. Together with Canon's superb range of optional* accessories, they empower you to maximise the potential of your shots. Broaden your scope of digital photography with the PowerShot G1. See your nearest authorised Canon dealer today.

PowerShot G1
DIGITAL CAMERA



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Infinite Creativity: video • imaging • photography

THE borders separating video, still photography, and computers were sharp and distinct. Even when software for digital darkrooms first came along, they were largely the territories of press production people in publishing houses. Not anymore.

Today the borders are being torn down from all directions. We see video, still photography, and digital imaging morphing into one machine or into overlapping technologies, empowering us to manage and massage our images in infinite ways.

In enlightening seminars and a trade show, PhotoWorld Manila 2001 focuses on the new creative freedom brought about by the converging technologies of video, still photography, and digital imaging.

Aside from Patrick Uy (Philippines), "Developing Your Style in Wedding Photography"; Mark Meily (Philippines), "Making TV Commercials with a Mini DV (Digital Video) Camera"; Ricky Muñoz (Philippines), "Maximizing Your Photos for the Web", the following speakers will also give visitors insights on these developments and much more.

Peter Adams (Australia)

"Moving to Moving Pictures," "When the Cast Won't Do What You Want Them to Do"

IN 1984, after twenty years in advertising, Peter Adams returned to commercial photography and won 13 of his 19 awards in the last 18 years. These awards include several Outright Winner of the international Hasselblad Masters Competition, Photographer of the Year Awards from the prestigious Australian Institute of Photography (AIPP), and a Clio Award for photography.

Over the same period, he also directed numerous television commercials for multinational brands, such as Kellogg's, Rexona, Nutrasweet, Konica for USA, Continental Airlines, Honda, and Dupont.

Peter was also involved in development work for various feature films and TV series, including one with Joan Collins.

"A Few of the Legends" remains his continuing passion, however. In the last 15 years, he has interviewed and photographed some 400 people, photographers from 14 countries in North America, Europe and Australia, for inclusion in this book.

Peter is a Double Master and Fellow of the AIPP, and founder of the Australian Association of Image Makers, an organization with a visionary outlook on the photographic and related industries.



**Carlos Fernando
Blanco Farías** (Mexico)
Commercial Photography

THERE are only two persons in Mexico who have been conferred the Master of Photography and Photographic Craftsman degrees by the prestigious Professional Photographers of America. One of them is

Carlos Fernando Blanco, who happens to be the only one to receive both at the same time.

He appears in both volumes of *Grandes Fotografos Publicitarios en Mexico* (The best Advertising Photogra-

phers in Mexico). Volume One is a Collection of 66 Mexican Advertising Photographers, while Volume 2 is a sample of the top 100 photographers all over Mexico. These books, published in 1997, were edited by Kodak de Mexico and Grupo Tragaluz.

Fernando's long list of citations include a "Best Advertising Photographer of the Year" award from Fotozoom Magazine in 1993, and a couple of "Best Latin Photographer, of the Month" awards, from Miami-based Fotolmaen magazine.

He has conducted over 100 lectures on commercial, fashion, wedding and portrait photography in various international conventions held in Mexico, the Caribbean, US, and Latin American countries.

Fernando is a recipient of a Gallery Award (Certificate of Photographic Excellence) from Kodak, in recognition of the excellent quality of his lectures.



Al Gilbert (Canada)
Portraiture

AL GILBERT has not stopped his search for new ideas in concept and execution, since he started his photography in the 1940s.

He has continually experimented under varying light conditions to perfect his techniques in portraiture—be it wide angle corporate, and even home

Al's mastery in selecting lighting, background, angle, tone, texture and design, has earned him international and local recognition. In 1994, he was the recipient of the Lifetime Achievement Award by the Photographic Industry of America and the International Award from the American Society of Photographers. Earlier in his career, he was a three-time winner of the most coveted Photographer of the Year Award by the Professional Photographers of Canada.

He holds a Canadian Master of Photographic Arts Degree and its Fellowship, as well as the Master of Photography, Photographic Craftsmen Degrees and Fellowship from The Professional Photographers of America. A member of the Order of Canada, Al also holds the Confederate Medal of Canada.



Sherman Hines (Canada)
"With Light, Timing is Everything"

EXCELLENCE has marked Sherman Hines' career in photography.

In 1968, he graduated with the highest honors ever awarded by the Brooks Institute in Santa Barbara, California, and was awarded a scholarship for further studies in Europe, Scandinavia and Russia.

The succeeding years saw him reap one top award after another, including two gold medals for excellence in photography: one from The Institute for the Achievement of Human Potential in Philadelphia, and the other from NAPA. He has also been voted as Canadian Photographer of the Year.

Not one to wait for a photograph to happen, Sherman

SOLID GOLD COLOR FILM

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Available at all MITSUBISHI 1- Hour Photo Outlet.

COLLECT & MATCH:

- It's easy! Collect Solid Gold Color Film boxes with 6 digits number combination printed at the inner back side of the film.
- Match your 6 digits number with the Monthly/Grand Draw winning list to be published in the leading newspaper and posted at participating dealer's store after each Monthly Draw and Grand Draw.
- Monthly Draw schedule and the major prizes (Cell-Phone) are as follows:

* December 28, 2000	: 10 Alcatel Talk & Text	* February 28, 2001	: 10 Nokia 5110
* November 28, 2000	: 10 Mitsubishi Trium	* March 28, 2001	: 10 Panasonic GD-30
* January 28, 2001	: 10 Motorola T-2288	* April 28, 2001	: 10 Nokia 3210

CONSOLATION PRIZES: 50 Professional Camera Bag, 50 Photographer's vest, 50 Solid Gold T-Shirt with collar

4. GRAND DRAW: MAY 28, 2001 - 30 CELLULAR PHONE (5 Units per above mentioned model)

1) 5 units of Alcatel Talk & Text	3) 5 units of Motorola T-2288	5) 5 units of Panasonic GD-30
2) 5 units of Mitsubishi Trium	4) 5 units of Nokia 5110	6) 5 units of Nokia 3210

CONSOLATION PRIZES: 100 Professional Camera Bag, 100 Photographer's Vest, 100 Solid Gold T-Shirt with collar

Drawing of winning combinations to be witnessed by the DTI representative to be held at the office of Solid Triangle Sales Corporation.

- Winners may redeem their prizes at SOLID TRIANGLE SALES CORPORATION, 101 Greenrich Mansion Lourdes St., cor. Pearl Drive, Ortigas Center, Pasig City or at any participating dealer's store. **WINNERS SHOULD BRING AND SURRENDER THE WINNING NUMBERED FILM BOX.** For Provincial winners, winners shall present winning film box to nearest outlet. The manager shall advise Solid Triangle Sales Corp. to send prizes of winners. Winners can come back two weeks after to claim prize upon surrender of the winning film box.
- All Monthly & Grand Draw prizes should be redeemed not later than 60 days from the end of the promo.
- This nationwide promo is open to all except the owners and employees of Solid Triangle Sales Corp., their Ad Agency, participating dealers, including their relatives up to the second degree of consanguinity or affinity are disqualified to join the promo.

PROMO PERIOD: NOVEMBER 1, 2000 UNTIL MAY 28, 2001

Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 0831, Series of 2000

Canon

DIGITAL IXUS

The world's smallest digital camera.

- 2.11 megapixel CCD
- High resolution optical lens
- 2x optical, 8x digital zoom
- Superb features with USB port
- Bright LCD display
- Optical viewfinder
- Sensational mobile style
- Surprisingly affordable

Why Canon?
Because no digital cameras still excite us!

DIGITAL IXUS

VTSC model known as DIGITAL ELPH

CANON CAMERA SHOWROOM Branches: Manila: Sola City Tel. 242 2647; SM Megamall Mandaluyong Tel. 835-6038; SM City North EDSA Q.C. Tel. 920-9006; SM Southern Luz Plaza Tel. 805-0888; SM City Manila Tel. 522-6200; SM C. Iloilo Tel. 033-320-1957 • **Avenue Photo**, Queapo, Manila Tel. 733-5474 • **Kameraworld Branches**: Robinsons Place Ermita Tel. 536-7696; Greenbelt Mall, Manila Tel. 856-3336; Shangri-La Plaza Mandaluyong Tel. 833-3333; SM Megamall Mandaluyong Tel. 833-5681; SM City North EDSA Q.C. Tel. 927-3449; Festival Mall Alabang Tel. 850-3506 • **Trendy Photo Center Branches**: Bonifacio World Tel. 836-5669; Park Square 1, Makati Tel. 836-3333; Park Square 2, Makati Tel. 836-5669; Shangri-La Plaza Mandaluyong Tel. 833-3333 • **Colours FotoShop Branches**: Ayala Center, Cebu Tel. 032-232-2249; SM City Cebu Tel. 032-232-2249; SM City Davao Tel. 082-232-2249 • **Makita**: 1 Park Square 1, Makati Tel. 836-3333 • **The Computer Authority (TCA) branches**: SM Megamall Mandaluyong Tel. 833-3333 • **Park Square 1, Makati Tel. 836-3333** • **Picture City**: Alibon Town Centre Tel. 807-5143; SM City Cebu Tel. 032-232-0221; Ayala Center, Cebu Tel. 032-232-0221 • **SM City Davao Tel. 082-232-2249** • **PhotoShare**: 1000+ • **Galaxy Photo**: 1000+ • **Gemini Photo**: 1000+

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Canon Digital Camera... (From page C8)

Inside the sleek body of this camera is a CMOS (complementary metal oxide semiconductor) sensor that produces 3.11 million pixels and a 2.3 aspect ratio. Pair that with the Canon EF lenses together with the other EOS system accessories and you get the picture clarity and sharpness only Canon can give. This camera gives photographers greater flexibility and provides current EOS system users an economical way to make the shift to digital imaging.



CD-300 Digital Printer

Canon introduces the dye-sublimation Digital Printer CD-300. This printer combines improved digital creation, speed, performance and image quality. It is rigged with front-loading capabilities for easy insertion of paper and ink cassettes.

The CD-300 can print JPEG files with or without a computer, providing borderless 4x6-inch prints at a resolution of 300 dpi (dots per inch). It can also produce miniature labels and borderless 4x10-inch panoramic prints. Each print is



laminated with a special clear UV coating to protect photos against moisture, scratches and fingerprints. So memories will last longer.

Canon's CD-300 accepts many different kinds of media like Type I and Type II CompactFlash (CF) cards, Type I and Type II PCMCIA-ATA cards, NTSC composite video and S-Video. DPOF and CIF data from compatible cameras are also supported. Plus you can connect the CD-300 to a TV or video monitor to take advantage of a full-featured command interface that allows you to adjust hue, tint, brightness, contrast and sharpness. There's even a parallel port and driver software to connect your Windows 95 or 98 personal computer.

BJC-8200 Color Bubble Jet Printer

Looking for the ultimate photographic printer? Canon gives you the BJC-8200 Color Bubble Jet Printer. Printouts of the BJC-8200 possess image-quality beyond the limits of human eyesight. With the new Microfine Drop-let Technology of Canon, the graininess of dots during the reproduction and production of images is limited.

Other features include 6-color photo printing, 1200 dpi high density head, 600 dpi scanning capability with the optional IS-62 scanner cartridge and dual interface, allowing you to use with a Mac or PC. To top all that, it has Canon's "Think Tank" technology or the individual ink tanks system for cost saving performance.

WHAT'S IN STORE FOR CANON CUSTOMERS

**Free Morocco Digital IXUS
Travel Book**

"I wanted this trip to be different. I would travel light, just myself, a laptop and this little camera," says Gerald Gay. The little camera he was referring to is the Canon Digital IXUS. This guy went on a trip to Morocco on a vacation. He told the people from Canon that he would produce a book from this trip of his. And so he did.

The Digital IXUS' small, stylish and powerful features proved its value as a photographer's tool for the 21st century. This book will inspire Canon Digital camera customers. It will be given away free with every purchase of any Canon Digital camera.

Canon Printer Raffle promo
Customers who will purchase any Canon Digital camera during the Photoworld will

get a chance to join a raffle promo. First prize is a Canon BJC-8200 Color Bubble Jet Printer, the "ultimate photographic printer"; second prize will be a Canon BJC-3000 and a BJC-2100. The warranty card should be exchanged with a raffle coupon to qualify for the raffle.

"Flora and Fauna" Digital Photography contest

Photography contest
Canon will accept entries for the "Flora and Fauna" digital photography contest. This contest is open to all amateur and professional digital camera photographers. To qualify, a contestant must submit the storage media (ex. CompactFlash card) to the Canon booth for downloading the entry. Edited or raw images are accepted.

Cash and other special prizes await the lucky winners. Visit the Canon booth and submit your entries.

Infinite Creativity: video • imaging • photography (From page C9)

keeps moving, "in search of photographs," and in the process, has published 54 books on his environmental photos.

Sherman holds Craftsmen and Master of Photography degrees in both the Canadian and American Professional Photographers, as well as a BA and Masters of Fine Arts (Hon.) from Brooks Institute. He also has a Fellowship degree from the ASP.

Gunther Deichmann (Australia/Philippines)
Underwater Photography

GUNTHER Deichmann's first assignment in underwater photography was The Great Barrier Reef in Australia. Seven years of award-winning environmental photography, which include the book Australia's Natural Wonders, has made him the natural choice for the job.

Purely self-taught in photography, he managed to win 12 awards in his first four years, and earn the rank of Associate at the prestigious Australian Institute of Professional Photography in only three years.

In March 1983, his photo, "The Great Australian Dry" made it to the cover of Time Magazine, making him the first Australian to do so.

Succeeding credits include environmental photos for National Geographic, Time Life, German Geo, French Geo, the Swiss publication Animan, Grand Reportage, Der Spiegel, and Stern, a German magazine with 1.5 million weekly circulation.

In the Philippines, Gunther has photographed the underwater flora and fauna at Anilao, El Nido, Coron, Puerto Galera, Bohol, and Cebu.

Tom Epperson (U.S./Philippines)
"Techniques in Architectural Photography"

PRACTICALLY nobody was doing architectural photography in the Philippines before Tom Epperson came here in the early 90's. So he set his sights on the top, and photographed what was then the tallest building in the country to launch his ideas here. That photograph of the Philippine Stock Exchange laid the foundation for his second career, making him the most sought-after photographer by major property developers like Ayala Land, Filinvest and Fil Estate.

Tom's entry into photography came after a successful 14-year career as animation cameraman for Hanna

Barbera, Warner Brothers and Disney. He walked away from this extremely high paying job after reading the story of a woman, who had no experience in photography, but eventually became the best correspondent who covered the Vietnam War.

In his lecture at PhotoWorld Manila 2001, Tom will share with his audience innovative techniques in architectural photography, as well as the result of a study he did on what architects look for photographers.



Marianne Young (Philippines)
"Utilizing Digital Technology to Create New Images"

MARIANNE Young is one of the first Filipinos to become Adobe Certified Expert in both Photoshop and PageMaker. There are only less than ten

Filipino Adobe Certified Experts to date. She has lectured to many of the country's graphic designers, being the consistent resource speaker on digital imaging in all the major indus-

try conventions of 2000.

In PhotoWorld Manila 2001, Marianne will introduce her audience to the digital imaging process and will reveal some of the tricks that art directors do.

Marianne is a member of the Technical Support Team for Adobe for Asia-Pacific, and the faculty of the Philippine Center for Creative Imaging.

George Cabig (Philippines)
"Destination Photography"

FOR about twenty years now, George Cabig has been photographing people and products—on location—for some of the country's top corporations.

His ability to produce stirring images under uncontrolled conditions made him the preferred photographer for the calendars, annual reports and brochures of Caltex Philippines, Bankard, Equitable Bank, Benguet Corporation, Department of Tourism, Kawasaki, PHINMA and Shoe Mart, among others.

George has also photographed seven books for two of the country's literary legends—Nick Joaquin and Manny Duldulao.

People at Work, his first exhibit mounted when he was just 20, gave the public a glimpse of the talent and professionalism that earned him in 1996, the post of Senior Photographer of Mabuhay, the inflight magazine of Philippine Airlines. He will later become Photo Editor of Business Daily in 1999.

To date, George has mounted seven one-man shows, and has won numerous top awards in national and international competitions, including the Canon Asia Photo Contest.

Norman Castillo (Philippines)
"Mini DV—the Universal Medium"

CAN a purist in photography find the same fulfillment expressing his art in the digital medium?

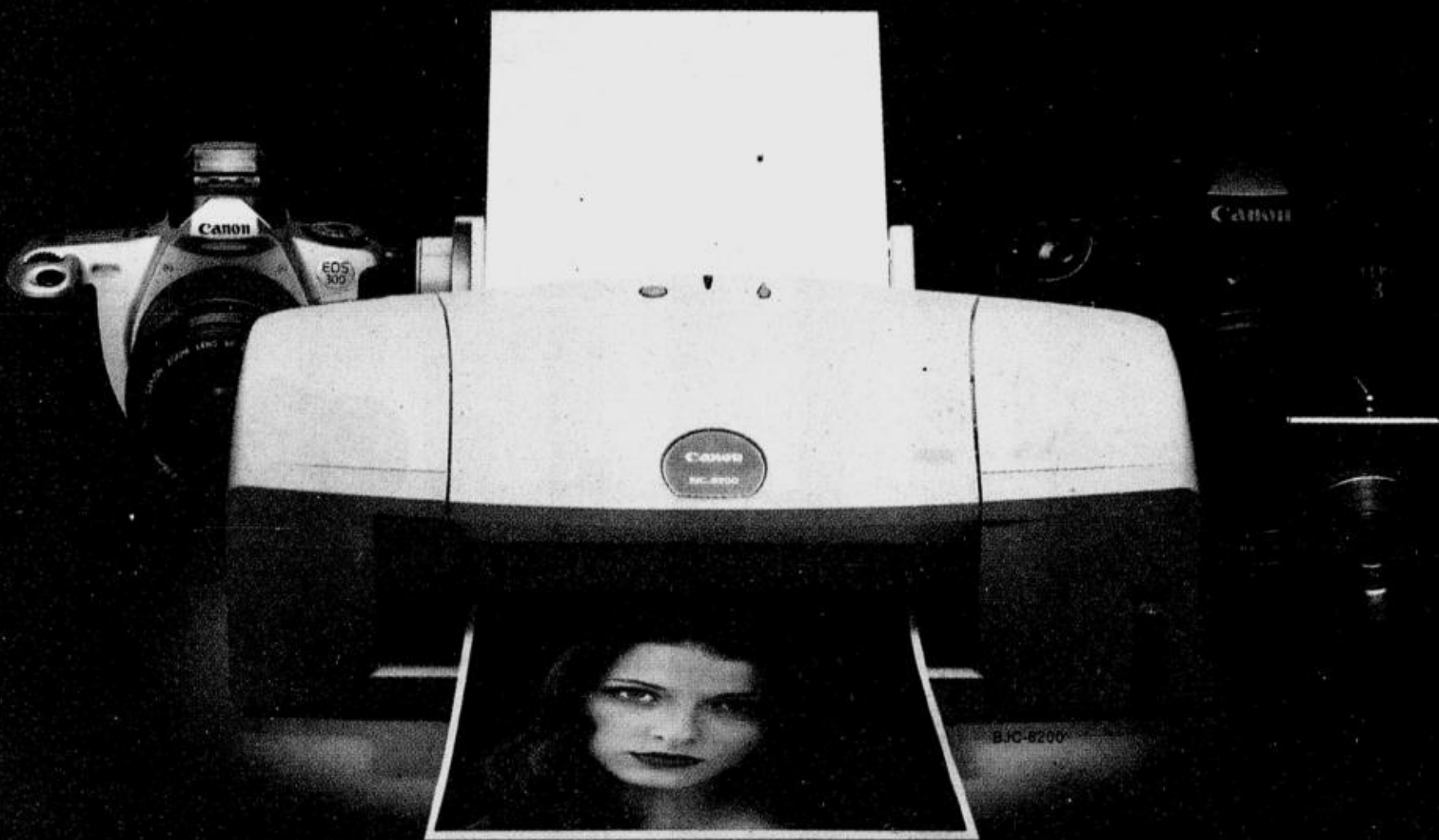
Norman Castillo says yes, and shows his multi-media career as living proof. In the early 80's, Norman's photographs defined the standards in slide shows. In fact in 1989, he became the first Filipino finalist in the Congress of the Association of Multi Image Producers held in Arizona, the equivalent of the Oscars for slide show makers.

At that time, video was slowly replacing slides as he preferred medium of presentation, and Norman found himself experimenting with this new format.

With his art intact, and the discipline of photography as foundation, he managed the transition from slides to video. This led to a 13-year career as director for the series of Johnnie Walker Live Events, fashion gala for top designers, and launch for Globe, Adidas, Black & Decker, Unilever and Selecta, among others.

Norman is currently president of Imageworks Entertainment, a first rate below-the-line advertising and TV production outfit, which also pioneered the use of mini-digital video five years ago.

Introducing Canon's latest contribution to photography



Does your printer have it?

BJC-8200 with MicroFine Droplet Technology – for prints as clear as photos.

Photos from your printer. A few years ago this idea was unthinkable. Today it's a reality with the BJC-8200. It's designed by the same people who made Canon cameras famous. The BJC-8200 prints with MicroFine Droplet Technology – at a tiny four picolitres – for dots so small they're invisible to the naked eye. It also uses the industry's first one-sixth density photo ink for unrivalled PhotoRealism colour. And Think Tanks™, Canon's radical new individual ink tank system, ensure you'll never waste a single drop of beautiful ink. The new BJC-8200. Finally, photos from your printer.

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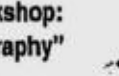
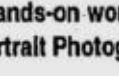
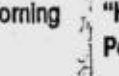
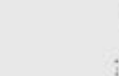
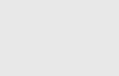
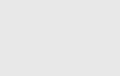
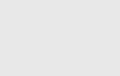
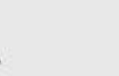
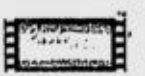
Hytech Integrated Products #9 Campanilla St., New Manila Q.C. Tel: 413-8899 Fax: 726-9361

Network Essentials Suite 1105 FEBIC Bldg. Quintan Paredes St., Bld. Manila Tel: 243-2138 Fax: 243-5144

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SEMINAR SCHEDULE

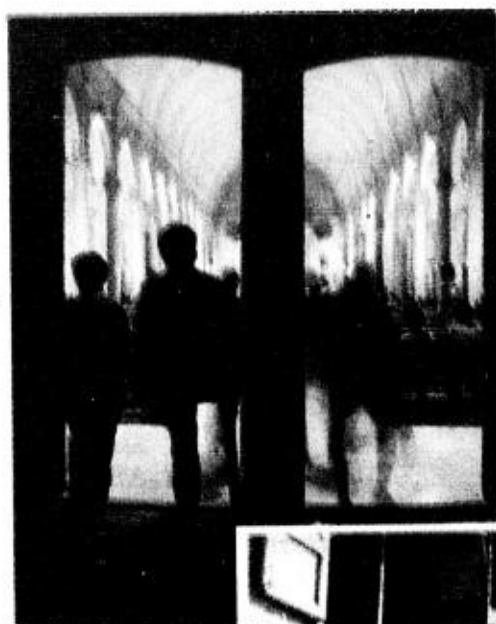
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|----------------|------------------|---|
| JAN. 25 | Morning | "With light, timing is everything"
<i>Sherman Hines (Canada)</i> |
| | Afternoon | "A few of the legends"
<i>Peter Adams (Australia)</i>
"Utilizing digital technology to create new images"
<i>Marianne Young (Philippines)</i> |
| JAN. 26 | Morning | "Making TV commercials with a mini DV camera"
<i>Mark Meilly (Philippines)</i>
"Maximizing your photos for the Web"
<i>Ricky Muñoz (Philippines)</i> |
| | Afternoon | "Mini DV presentation—the universal medium"
<i>Norman Castillo (Philippines)</i>
"What to do when the cast won't do what you want them to do"
<i>Peter Adams (Australia)</i> |
| JAN. 27 | Morning | "Commercial Photography"
<i>Fernando Blanco Farias (Mexico)</i> |
| | Afternoon | "Underwater Photography"
<i>Gunther Deichmann (Aus/Phil)</i> |
| JAN. 28 | Morning | "Destination Photography"
<i>George Cabig (Philippines)</i> |
| | Afternoon | "From picture that move people to moving pictures"
<i>Peter Adams (Australia)</i> |
| JAN. 29 | Morning | "Portraiture"
<i>Al Gilbert (Canada)</i> |
| | Afternoon | "Techniques in architectural photography"
<i>Tom Epperson (US/Phil)</i>
"Developing your style in wedding photography"
<i>Patrick Uy (Philippines)</i> |
| JAN. 30 | Morning | "Hands-on workshop: Portrait Photography" |

4th NCWDP national photo contest on disability

THE PHOTO contest, organized by the FPPF for the National Council for the Welfare of Disabled Persons, sought to shift the focus of attention from disabilities of persons to their ability to cope with life as productive members of society and to call the attention of government and private organizations to the plight and special needs of disabled persons. The contest was held last year and culminated on the celebration of the International Day of the Disabled held last December 9 at La Salle in Greenhills.



FIRST PLACE - Christopher Johnson



SECOND PLACE -
Marcial Angelo
Tabisaura



FOURTH PLACE -
Joselito G. Arceta



THIRD PLACE - Rey Mondez



FIFTH PLACE - Rey Mondez

Internet café opens in Malate

THE BIGGEST, coolest Internet café in the Malate area right across UP Manila College of Public Health along Pedro Gil Street opened recently. Equipped with no less than 30 state-of-the-art computer units and manned by competent, super-friendly staff, Surf's Up is really the place to be in for all cyber buff-students and professionals. Not only does it boast of superb hardware, software and staff, it prides itself with its hip ambience—cool yet conducive to surfing, e-mail, desktop work or what have you. It's even ideal for purely whiling away time taking sips of special coffee concoctions or mild booze. Better yet, gastronomic trips with its delectable

pastas, pastries, sandwiches, and more, in between surf trips. For its opening salvo, customers can enjoy up to 20 percent discount on computer rentals till Jan. 16, 2001.

You may also indulge in billiards and other fun gimmicks at the Surf's Up game corner. "There's never a dull moment at Surf's Up. No wonder it has been so named—you'll have your hands full with activities, chatting included and of course, surfing the web," said Rosary Villamor, general manager of Surf's Up.

Visit the latest and hottest in-place in Malate, Surf's Up Internet Café and Billiards Bar at 712 Pedro Gil St., Malate, Manila.

SEA Consultants launches website

SEA Consultants Inc. (SEA), an international consulting firm based in the Philippines has just launched its new website.

The website contains a brief profile of the company and descriptions of projects that the company has been involved in since its inception. SEA specializes in capacity building, institutional strengthening, policy formulation, implementation and training. Sectors that have been SEA's main areas of concern include

finance, agriculture, urban and rural development, environment, education, environment, energy and local governance.

For the period 1993 to 1998, SEA Consultants Inc. has been adjudged by the ADB as the consulting firm which has garnered the most number of technical assistance projects among the Filipino consulting companies.

Visit SEA at www.seaconsultants.com or call 815-87990/98 for more information.

CMG of Australia celebrates Chinese New Year

CMG of Australia, a leading integrated financial services provider, celebrates today the Chinese New Year for the eight consecutive year.

The event will be highlighted by the blessing of the newly transferred CMG Binondo Office located at the ground floor of Federal Tower Building, Dasmariñas corner Muelle de Binondo Streets, Binondo, Manila. Ribbon-cutting ceremonies will be led by Insurance Commissioner Eduardo Malinis. From the

former 14th floor of the same building, CMG moved its office to the ground floor for better accessibility and visibility to its clients. This year's celebration will also be marked with a dragon and lion dance at the CMG Binondo branch.

CMG of Australia offers life insurance, pension, education, health care plans and credit cards. It is wholly owned by Commonwealth Banks, the largest financial services group in Australia.



ABEST TRAINING FACILITY

Dr. Larry Burton, president of ABEST Communications Corp. delivers a speech during a press conference for the opening of the ABEST Training Facility in Thomasville, North Carolina. The first batch of software engineer trainees in the new training facility include 13 Filipino engineers, a Taiwan national and two Americans. Behind Burton are the ABEST Board of Directors.



NEW AD AGENCY FOR EQUITABLE

Equitable Cardnetwork recently appointed FCB Manila as its advertising agency. Signing the contract are Equitable Card's first VP Teresita Tanbonlong and SVP Eugenio Hernandez; and FCB president/COO Arnold Liong, and creative director Anlex Basilo.



OFFICE INAUGURATION

Grand Post International Philippines Inc. will officially inaugurate on Feb. 3 its new headquarters at the 9th floor Tower 1, The Enterprises Center, 6799 Ayala Ave., corner Paseo de Roxas, Makati City. With a slogan "Let's Go for a Better Future," the company offers free seminar from Monday to Saturday, 3 to 7 p.m. Those who are interested to generate additional income call 884-8420.

IECEP bares raffle winners

THE INSTITUTE of Electronics and Communications Engineer of the Philippines, Inc (IECEP) announced recently the result of the "Golden Raffle" draw for its members held in conjunction with the "iecep 2000" celebration of its 50th anniversary.

Tickets numbers of the major winners are as follows: grand prize - 109590; 2nd prize - 599548; 3rd prize - 347504 and 4th prize - 165652.

Consolations prizes winners are ticket nos: 266638, 047433,

066057, 046398, 358403, 677894, 620766, 484464, 773454, 223475, 027846, 211650, 230930, 299796, 767595, 766057, 085428, 487048, 265055, 985922, 867278, 314930, 835376, 024250, 245388, 505473, 401900, 612104, 256401, 854028, 157729, 750713, 665326, 375302, 789007 and 675364.

Winners may claim their prizes at the IECEP office, 2/F Kalaw-Ledesma Condominium, 117 Gamboa St., Legaspi Village, Makati City or call 818-6888.

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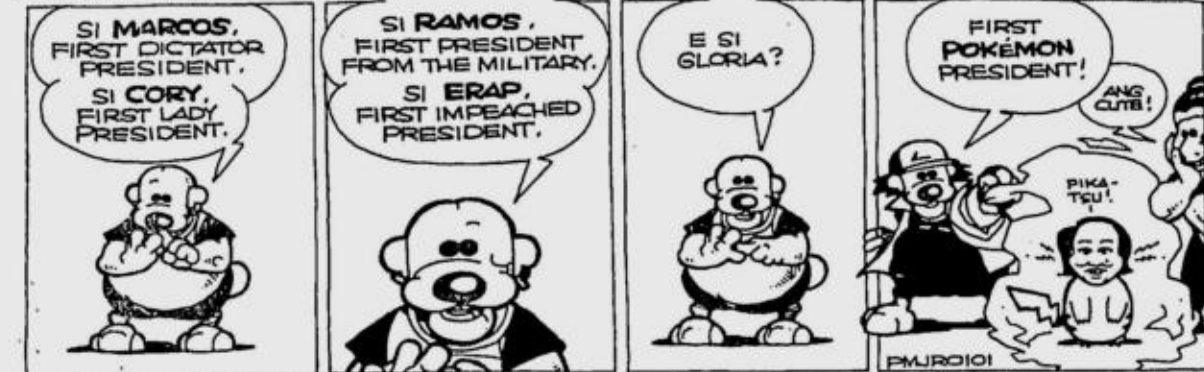
ANIMAL CRACKER

BY FRED WAGNER



PUGAD BABOY

BY P.M. JUNIOR



SHERMAN'S LAGOON

BY JIM TOOMEY



SIMO

BY EDGAR DIONELA



BABY BLUES

BY JERRY SCOTT



KATREENA

BY JOY CONIENDO



HOROSCOPE

BY EUGENIA LAST

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Mary Lou Retton, Ray Stevens, Oral Roberts, John Belushi, Warren Zevon, Nastassja Kinski, Neil Diamond, Tatyana Ali, Aaron Neville
Happy Birthday: You will find it difficult to please others, so start with yourself and work on your own emotional well-being for a change. Then you'll find it easier to make those around you happy. Your professional position is changing, but the result can be to your advantage if you are on top of your game. You will receive the necessary support if you are open about your intentions. Your numbers: 15, 19, 20, 23, 38, 44

ARIES (March 21-April 19): You need a creative outlet for your high energy. You're interested in having more youngsters around you to spend time with.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): You may have problems with female members of your family. Don't let your emotions take over or harsh words may follow and cause even greater upset. Your partner is not likely to sympathize.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): Romantic encounters are apparent. Get out and socialize or take a trip that will be conducive to love. You are overdue for a little time out. Pamper yourself and have fun.

CANCER (June 21-July 22): Don't overspend on children, entertainment or self-indulgences. If you are drawn into gossip at work, it could lead to difficulties with your employer.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): You will be excessively sensitive today. Try not to be too dramatic, or your mate may leave you to suffer all alone. You are creating your own problems. Be a giver, not a taker.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Don't be too eager to hand out information about others or you may find yourself in hot water. You will be misinterpreted if you are not precise in your communications.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): It's best not to spend too much on luxury items or purchases for your home. Lending or borrowing will get you into trouble. Losses are evident if you are careless with your cash.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): You appear to be experiencing some difficulties with your personal situation. Don't try to push your beliefs on others. Allow your partner the necessary freedom. Jealousy will cause loneliness.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Travel will lead to romance and adventure. Your creative talents will surface, and you should pursue your dreams. Children may play a crucial part in your life today.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Don't hesitate to invite friends over for a social evening. You can form partnerships that will be fruitful and lasting. Real estate investments look good. Put your offer in writing.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Your partner will be in need of attention. Don't neglect his or her needs unless you are prepared to deal with tantrums. Communication will help your relationship.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): A new lover will be yours if you become involved in creative hobbies or travel. You may attract more than one individual, but don't try to play one against the other. Be honest and you'll gain a friend.

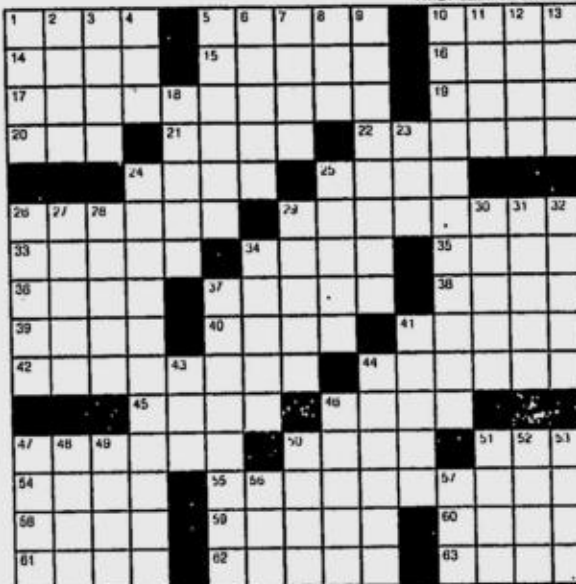
Birthday Baby: You have your own way of doing things. You are uniquely creative, inquiring and full of surprises. You aren't afraid to stand alone because you thrive on doing your own thing.

DAILY CROSSWORD

TMSPUZZLES@aol.com

ACROSS

- 1 Belfry tenants?
- 5 Obstructs
- 10 Autumn
- 14 NYC theatrical award
- 15 Metal bolt
- 16 Neighborhood
- 17 Comden/Green musical
- 19 Dye
- 20 Anne des Monts, Que.
- 21 Streamlined swimmer
- 22 Discuss again
- 24 Gibson and Ferrer
- 25 Last of the Stuarts
- 26 Accolades
- 29 Frozen dessert
- 33 Speak spectacularly
- 34 Goofs up
- 35 Morose
- 36 Sumptuous
- 37 Fall as ice
- 38 Extreme anger
- 39 Peeved
- 40 Some containers
- 41 Sacred song sung a capella
- 42 Sap of energy
- 44 Cringes
- 45 Clinton's veep
- 46 Cut, like lumber
- 47 Runner-up
- 50 Vague amount
- 51 Ostrich kin
- 54 Margarine
- 55 Joel Chandler Harris character
- 58 Flippers
- 59 Exemplar of slowness
- 60 Milano moolah
- 61 London gallery
- 62 Watches over
- 63 Irritates



By Frances Burton
Summerville, GA

12/1/00

PREVIOUS PUZZLE ANSWER

NARCOTIC ASTERN
ELEONORA SOIREE
POSTURAL TREATS
OPT SANDLOT SET
TERI HIRE SMELL
ICINGS OAF IDLE
SINGE ANVILS
MAGENTA EROTISM
STARTS PINTO
SKAT JOE MELVIN
PERSE NERO YIPS
AIM JUSTINE APT
STATER EVITABLE
MEDICI RECOILER
SLANTS STANDERS

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- 37 One of Hoagy Carmichael's best
- 41 Lawn leveler
- 43 Harry Zell
- 44 Bactrian and dromedary
- 51 Manipulates
- 56 Compass pt.
- 57 Lilly or Wallech
- 48 Author/director Kazan
- 49 Penny
- 50 Perusa
- 51 Bahrain leader
- 52 Gloom
- 53 Manipulates
- 56 Compass pt.
- 57 Lilly or Wallech

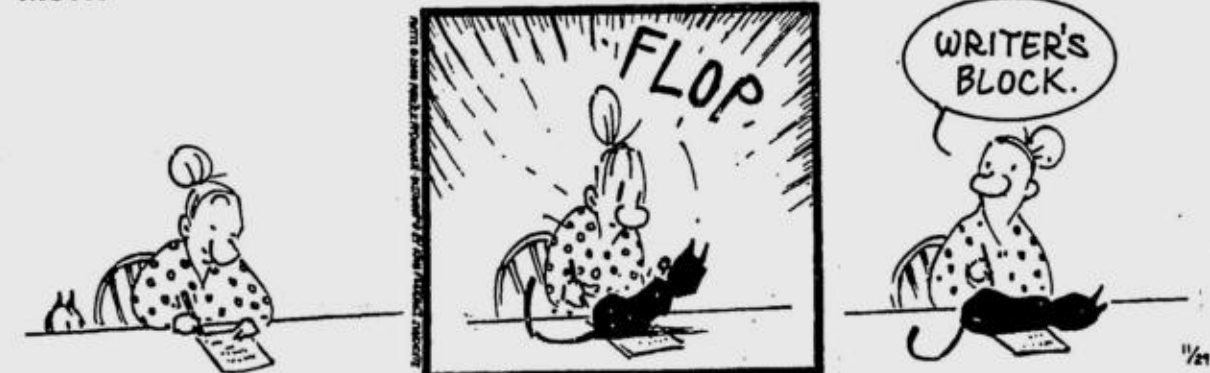
BEN

BY DANIEL SHELTON



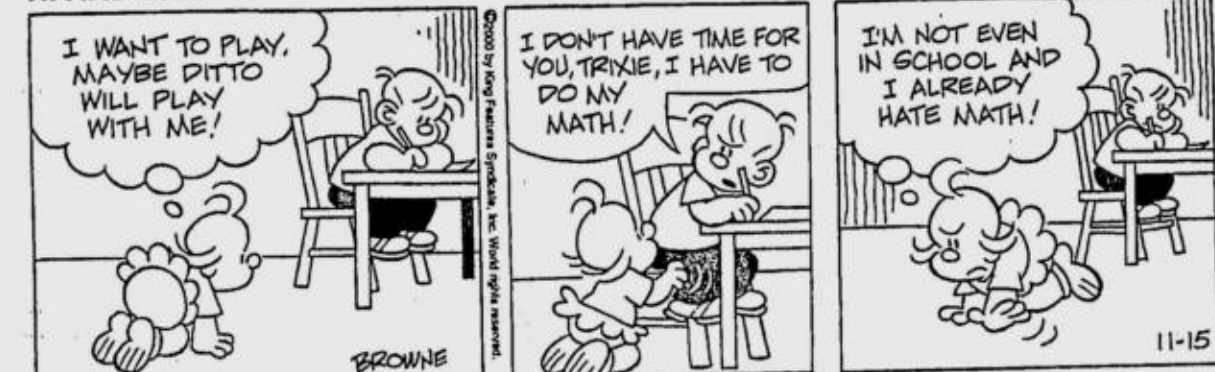
MUTTS

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HI AND LOIS

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This dean is a cool dude

BY JULES ALCANTARA
 2bU! Correspondent

APATHETIC.

Generation X (the term coined by Douglas Copeland to describe our generation) has always been described as such: The saying "The youth is wasted on the young" seems to have been coined with our generation in mind.

Bunch of drifters, that's how my *2bU!* describes the now generation.

That's why it is refreshing to encounter someone like Ferdinand Alversado. The twentysomething industrial design graduate and head of student affairs formation and development of the College of St. Benilde breezes into his office, energetic, clad in clothes not normally associated with teachers or mentors. In fact, at first blush, it would not even occur to you that he holds an administrative position in the college. He has often been mistaken as a student.

Students describe him as professional yet approachable. The student of MA Advertising at the University of Sto. Tomas is, to date, the youngest ever to have become head of student affairs in St. Benilde.

"Sir Ferdie," as he is fondly called by his students, looks "too cool" to be a teacher.

Early achiever

Ferdie's gift of leadership began in kindergarten.

"I remember when I was in kindergarten, my teacher asked me to lead the entire batch of kindergarten in our field day. My task then was to teach them the right steps for the 'YMCA' dance—a la sailors! *Natawala talaga ako kapag naalala ko ito. Katunayan nga may picture pa ako nito,*" he remembers.

He says he has been a go-getter ever since. Even in high school, he was always tasked to spearhead activities. He organized class outings, designed jackets and even collected

You're never too young to foster the right values in the youth. Ask Ferdinand Alversado who, just in his 20s, is a student affairs head

and raised funds for class projects.

In college, he was elected as chair of the council of presidents (the mother organization of all the student organizations) at St. Benilde. He handled as many as 17 organizations of diverse interests.

Despite all the extracurricular work, he never failed to attend to his studies. As an industrial design student, he spent many a sleepless night working on his designs and plates. Ferdie learned the art of multi-tasking and time management, which enabled him to finish his studies and bring into fruition all the plans that he, together with his team in the council of presidents, made.

Fearless

Ferdie says he was never afraid to gamble on a new idea or concept. "As long as the idea is workable," he adds.

He was often described as *bibo* (precocious) by teachers. That's why they constantly prodded him to join contests. "*Manalo, matalo, okay lang yan, Ferdie,*" his teachers would often tell him.

Of course, the achiever that he was (and still is), Ferdie made sure he would win. It was at this time



ALVERSADO. Too cool to be a teacher

that he realized guts and confidence really helped in being an achiever and a leader.

He also gives credit to his mother who constantly encouraged him excel. Dinner was interspersed with words of wisdom from his mother, which later became his sources of inspiration.

He proudly shares the story of how his parents had to work and study at the same time during their younger years. "This story further encouraged me to do better at my

job," he says.

As head of student affairs, Ferdie is in charge of facilitating and enhancing the professional and socio-cultural growth and development of Benildeans, a tall order considering how difficult and wayward college students can get.

But Ferdie understands how young people's minds work, for he himself is as young as they are. He speaks their language, that's why his office in the college has become a haven, a *tambayan* for stu-

dents.

He tells the story of how one of his students was shocked to see him in Street Life one time. "Yes, I do have time to go out despite my hectic schedule," he shares.

In fact, he is known to go out with his students. "But of course, I always bear in mind that I will always have to act as a role model to all them," Ferdie adds. He is approachable and friendly but he makes sure he commands the respect of his students and peers. "I would always make sure that I do not affect their sensibilities."

Despite his youth, he has never encountered a superior who gave him a hard time. He was always able to manage, assess and analyze difficult or problematic situations.

Edsa 2 in Bacolod

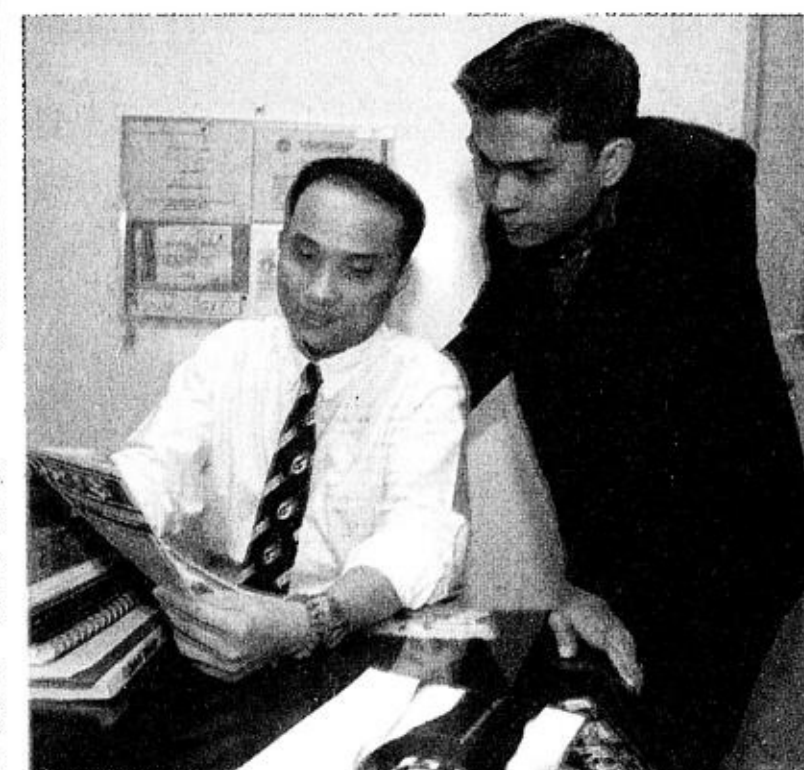
Ferdie was in Bacolod attending the 10th National La Sallian Youth Congress when the political crisis occurred last week. Together with

CSB students Chris Sta. Brigida, PJ Buñag and other La Sallian delegates, Ferdie led and participated in the indignation rallies that were held in the city.

The recent political crisis has convinced him even more to excel in his field of youth formation. He says a leader starts his formation at home "where the basics of character are learned."

He says it is the job of formator, like him, to practice responsiveness and responsibility. "To be honest, it is hard to teach these just by sheer eloquence," he says. Practice is the key, he adds.

"We have seen and experienced in our national situation that nobody should just stand up and say that he can lead, even if he has the popular support," Ferdie says. "Every leader should exude characteristics that spring forth from the active exercise of [human] values."



CONFERRING with a colleague

How I spent my birthday

I USUALLY throw a big theme bash to celebrate my birthday. I look at it in a superstitious angle, thinking that the party's turnout would reflect my good fortune. Birthdays, after all, are meant to be observed as a time to reflect on the past and to pave for our future. This year proved no different.

Tuesday, close to midnight on my way home to Greenhills, I asked my driver to drop me off at the Edsa Shrine. The noise barrage had erupted about an hour ago and I was curious to know what was happening in the church.

I was pleasantly surprised to see the number of people already assembled at the steps of Our Lady's statue. There, members of the Couples, Singles and Youth for Christ and other religious and cause-oriented groups have assembled, bonded by the light of candles and the strength of their faith.

An hour later, a spontaneous outburst of people arrived. People of all ages with a common conviction and conscience came to Edsa. The crowd's spirit was infectious—an emotional blend of anger for the 11 senators' infamous decision and of immense love for country. It made me cry.

Then came the cheering and the jeering, with a distinct sting for each of the 11 new Judases whom the people called as traitors. "*Miriam baliw,*" "*Tadtarin si Tatad,*" "*Revil-la t-nga*" and other insults were invented on the spot, spreading like wildfire among the growing crowd. This was the only way the people could get back at "J.O.E.'S. C.O.H.O.R.T.S." (By now you should know the meaning of that mnemonic—or else I don't know where you've been.)



Tim Yap

Chant attack

Our group—Mia Trinidad, Malu Gamboa, Jenny Manuel and Pepper Teehankee—wanted to be creative, so we invented our own chant. "Oreta b-tch, Oreta b-tch!"—to which the crowd looked at us with a question mark on their faces. Seconds later, a new chant—"Oreta p-k-p-k, Oreta p-k-p-k!"—was hurled. Okay, we stand corrected.

It is quite ironic that this "Dancing Balato Queen," as what people have christened her, was also the one who opposed a group of dancing women some years ago. Remember the Fat Willy's fiasco? She called the women who joined a wet T-shirt contest "disgraceful and immoral." Look who's talking.

I was only in grade school when People Power I happened. That time, memories of nuns, canons and songs filled my innocent mind. We did not know exactly what the Marcoses did, except that classes were suspended (my alma mater, St. Jude, was right beside Malacañang) every time there were rallies. Also, I didn't have my Globe back then.

With technology (and later on show-biz denizens and the military) on our side, the story became different. Young people from all sectors joined hands—the following days would witness students from

People Power 2 beats all other parties because it embodies the real meaning of celebration—remembrance

UP, Ateneo, La Salle, CSB, UST, UA&P, Miriam, St. Scholastica, STI and others all marching to the same beat. "Please, for us!" I remember a student pleading before television cameras.

In the midst of all the chantings, my friends all of a sudden shifted their chants to a chorus of "Happy Birthday" greetings. Oh, yeah, it was my birthday. I almost forgot. This realization came when I was atop the shrine, receiving a million texts while at the same time looking down on the huge throng that had gathered below.

Color of the day

All of a sudden, black became the color of the day. I had to look for black clothes in my closet since I relegated all my black stuff to my storage closet in another house when I decided to get hooked on sartorial color. Welcome back, punk and goth—black is back!

I went home to prepare an intimate dinner, and basked in the company of Jessica Soho alternating with Tina Monzon-Palma, Pinky Webb, Katrina Legarda, Korina Sanchez, Vicky Morales, Mel Tiangco and Mareng Winnie, thanks to my remote control.

After being a birthday couch potato, I decided to go back to the shrine to spend the last few hours of my natal day in the historic spot. I looked at the assembly of young people in the rally and realized that I was in good company.

This event came at the right time when people thought that the youth were apathetic to the times, keeping to their own cliques and minding their own interests. From holding fort at Edsa to the march to Mendiola, the revolution showed that the nation has young people with principles and a love higher than the love for their own selves.

This was a party unlike any other. I've been to many parties here and around, but Edsa 2 beats them all because it embodies the real meaning of a celebration, which is to remember. Never have I seen the power of the youth and the future of the nation so clearly than in Edsa.

Indeed, there is no better gift than the promise of a better tomorrow.



FROM RAGE TO RAVE. Black-clad Cebuanos have all the reasons to party.

Party power in Cebu

IF you think People Power II was only on Edsa, you're wrong. Filipinos all over the country took to the streets.

In Cebu City, for instance, the youth joined the parliament of the streets, converging with fervor at the landmark rotunda on Fuente Osmeña.

It just so happened that the national crisis broke out just as Sugbu (Cebu's old name) was in the thick of the Sinulog, the traditional revelry in honor of the Sto. Niño. And guess what the Sto. Niño's color is? Soot black. So the Sinulog was transformed

into a giddy people power blowout.

Blowout, indeed; for Globe Telecom Inc., which was instrumental in the frenzy of text messages rallying people into action, gifted Cebuanos with five nights of partying. These were held mainly at The Village at the Cebu Civic and Trade Center, which boasts such trendy bars as Club Fuel, Soap and Yo! Latino.

The action peaked on Sunday evening, right after the main Sinulog parade. Globe Telecom, together with Philips Mobile Phones and Junrex Cellphones & Accessories, blasted the night away with fireworks, beer and live band music at

the Ayala Center-Cebu carpark. The performers included Frank, Johnny and the Walkers, Sheila and the Insects, Smooth Friction, Catski, Brown Man Revival, Puro Ritmo, Barbie's Crade and Irish & Co.

It was a night to remember as Cebu's youth, still tipsy from the after-effects of People Power 2, soaked in the music, hip videos on giant widescreens and back projection system, space flower lighting effects, a superb outdoors turbo sound system and a zany intellibeam lighting.

Party time, indeed!

UP writing workshop deadline extended

THE UP Creative Writing Center has announced that it is extending the deadline for applications to its National Writers' Workshop to Jan. 31.

The workshop, the 38th to be held by the CWC, will be held in Baguio, March 25 to April 7. It will be directed by Cristina Pantoja-Hidalgo, CWC director. She will be joined by a teaching panel composed of the Center's associates, resident fellows and advisers: National Artist Francisco Arcellana, Ramon Magsaysay awardee Bienvenido Lumbera, Amelia Lapena-Bonifacio, Gemino H. Abad, Jose Y. Dalisay Jr., Domingo G. Landicho, Anton Juan, Jun Cruz Reyes, Lilia Quindosa-Santiago, J. Neil Garcia, Vim Nadera, Roland Tolentino, Jose F. Lacaba, Marra PL. La-

not, Rene Villanueva and Carla Pacis.

This workshop is open to short-story writers, poets and playwrights (including writers of teleplays and screenplays) in English, Filipino, Iloko and Bikol. Writers may also submit experimental or mixed-genre works in these languages. However, applicants must submit entries in one genre and in one language only, e.g., poetry in Filipino, or fiction in Iloko, or experimental works in English.

Applicants should submit, under a pseudonym, four hardcopies (computer-encoded, double-spaced) and a computer diskette copy (MS Word) of their manuscripts. These should be accompanied by a sealed envelope containing the author's

real name and pseudonym, an application letter, a 2x2" ID photo, short resumé and attestation of originality (i.e., that the entries are original works and not adapted or translated from other materials, whether local or foreign). All entries in Bikol and Iloko should also be accompanied by competent English or Filipino translation. Incomplete submissions will be disqualified. Fellows of previous workshops need not apply.

All applications must be sent to: Cristina Pantoja Hidalgo, UP National Writers Workshop, Likhaan: The UP Creative Writing Center, 2/F Bulwagang Rizal, UP Diliman, QC 1101.

Call the UP CWC at 922-1830 (direct line) or 920-5301 local 7974.



STEPH BRAVO

CHINESE NEW YEAR

REZ GOPEZ-SINDAG, Editor

SPROJECTS@INQUIRER.COM.PH

AGGIE PINILI, Account Manager

Chinese New Year at the SM malls

THE SM Supermalls transforms into a little Chinatown as it celebrates Chinese New Year with fun festivities that have started since Jan. 19.

Today, witness the Chinese Dragon and Lion Dance performances at SM Southmall and SM City North-EDSA. The Philippine Green Dragon Training Center and the Philippine Dragon and Lion Dance Association will perform beginning at 11 a.m. Dance performances were already held last Jan. 19 at SM City Manila and SM City Pampanga; Jan. 20 at SM City Fairview and SM City Bacoar; and Jan. 21 at SM Centerpoint and SM Megamall.

A Wushu Martial Arts exhibition courtesy of the Philippine Ling Nam Association took center stage on Jan. 20 at the SM Southmall and Jan. 21 at SM City North-EDSA both at 4 p.m.

Of course, shoppers can shop for items that bring luck, happiness, love and prosperity. Girls in colorful cheong-sams are distributing free goodies for those who purchase P100 worth of any Lee Kum Kee product. Diners in participating Chinese mall restaurants get an *ampao* for every P150 purchase.



CATCH the Philippine Green Dragon Training Center and the Philippine Dragon and Lion Dance Association as they perform the Chinese Lion/Dragon Dance beginning at 11 a.m. today at SM Southmall and SM City North EDSA.

Move over *tikoy*, here comes *bak-kwa*

TODAY, the Chinese community celebrates its very own New Year. This is the new moon day, the first day of the first Chinese lunar month in the Chinese lunar calendar system.

Preparations for the New Year festival start during the last few days of the last moon. Houses are thoroughly cleaned and doors are decorated with vertical scrolls of characters on red paper whose texts on gold ink seek good luck.

Although the customary Chinese New Year festivities have been handed down for millennia, they still retain tremendous significance today. The communal feast called "surrounding the stove" or *weilu* symbolizes unity and the value of spending important occasion together with family, and the custom of making New Year's day visits to neighbors, family and friends.

Probably more food is consumed during the New Year celebrations than any other time of the year. Vast amount of traditional food is prepared for family and friends. This is meant to symbolize abundance and wealth for the household. When friends visit, it is important to serve "lucky food." Many of the foods served have symbolic meanings. For some foods, their shape and color may mean happiness, prosperity, fortune or luck.

In the Philippines, *tikoy* is the popular Chinese give-away among friends. But another favorite choice is *bak-kwa* (means barbecued meat), introduced in the country by Bee Cheng Hiang, the number one *bak-kwa* maker in Asia.

Believed to bring good luck and prosperity because of its round shape and color is "Chicken coin *bak-kwa*." Served in a round platter, this delicacy is perfect as a gift.

Bak-kwa's reddish color is considered auspicious. It is also uniquely sweet, savory and has an intrinsically aromatic and smoky flavor. Since it is made from natural ingredients and contains no MSG, preservatives and artificial coloring, *bak-kwa* is also considered a healthy food alternative.

Bee Cheng Hiang now accepts made-to-order packages that include several varieties of *bak-kwa*. BCH is also bringing to Filipinos other traditional Chinese New Year treats such as Haw jelly, love letters (similar to borquillos), cereal cookies, cashew nuts, chocolate alabama, diamond heart candies, melting almond, peanut cookies, suji balls sweet olives, preserved prunes, orange peel and salted mango.

Bee Cheng Hiang Philippines has six outlets: Crossroad Arcade in Greenhills Shopping Center, SM Megamall (Bldg. A), Robinsons Place-Ermita, SM City Manila, Robinsons Galleria and Shangri-La Plaza, Mandaluyong City.

Lee Kum Kee together with the Center for Culinary Arts have also held Chinese cooking demonstrations. These included "It's Cooking Made Easy with Lee Kum Kee" hosted by chef Bernardo Ignacio on Jan. 19 at the SM Megamall and "The Joy of Eating Tasty Noodles with Lee Kum Kee" with chef Kim Santos on Jan. 20 at SM City Manila. Meanwhile, chef Jeffrey Catral will host "Lee Kum Kee Chinese Cuisine for the Family" on Jan. 31

at SM Southmall. Chef Giovanni Baclas was the perfect host in "Let's Party with Lee Kum Kee" as he demonstrated Beef Noodles with Chicken Marinade, Chicken Pork Asado and Sweet and Sour Pork Spareribs on Jan. 23 at SM City Fairview. To cap this cooking tour is Vicky Villanueva's presentation of Lee Kum Kee's Cuisine for the New Year with delicious servings of Tofu Salad, Hot and Sour Soup and Chicken with Taro and

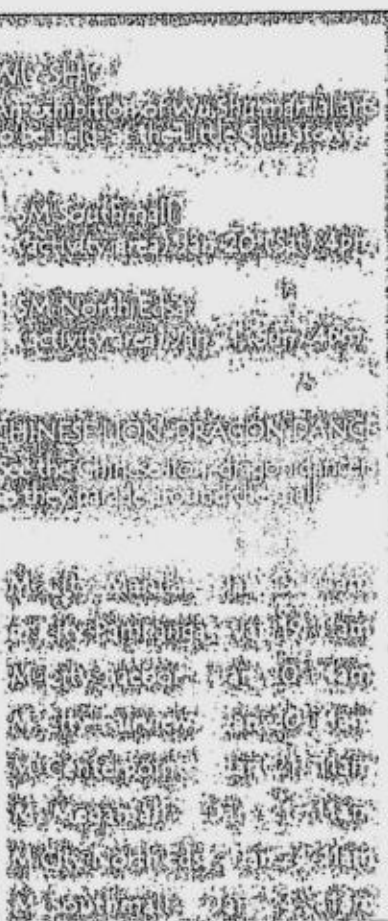
Chestnuts today at the SM Megamall.

Moreover, Storyland Adventure, the country's most exciting indoor theme park, ushers in good luck and happiness with the traditional Dragon and Lion Dance today at SM Southmall.

Park guests can get a free snake balloon with every purchase of ride-all-you-can wrist tags for every P100 purchase at Storyland's Souvenir Shop in the S-S-S-Snake Balloon promo which will run until Jan. 28, 2001.



PHILIPPINE Ling Nam Athletic Association's Wushu warriors performed high-flying kicks and spirited punches during the Wushu Martial Arts Exhibition held at SM Southmall and SM City North EDSA.



CHINESE COOKING DEMOS
A cooking demonstration on various Chinese dishes and on noodle-making, Chinese taffy-making, etc. to be held during the Little Chinatown.

SM Megamall - Jan 19, 1 pm
Theme: Cooking Made Easy
SM City Manila - Jan 20, 1 pm
"Joy of Eating Noodles"
SM Southmall - Jan 21, 1 pm
"Chinese Cuisine for the Family"
SM City North EDSA - Jan 22, 1 pm
Livelihood: Be Lucky in your Small Business
SM City Fairview - Jan 23, 1 pm
"Let's Party"
SM Megamall - Jan 24, 1 pm
"Cuisine for New Year"



LEE KUM KEE

SM City Bacoar - Jan 24, 2 pm
"Chinese Dimsum Recipes"



ANG PAO PREMIUM PROMO
For a minimum single purchase of Php 150.00, customer gets a chance to bring home one (1) Ang Pao envelope from participating Chinese restaurants with lucky freebie or a minimum of Php. 5.00 inside the Ang Pao envelope.
Jan 19 to 24

(Per DTI - NCR Permit No. 1988, Series of 2000)

LITTLE CHINA TOWN
A 6-day fair-like event wherein selected tenants are to sell their items at the activity area of SM Supermalls. Chinese New Year Freebies will be given away for every Php 100.00 worth of purchase of any Lee Kum Kee brand.

JAN 19-24, 10am-6pm
SM City North EDSA, SM Megamall, SM City Fairview, SM City Bacoar, SM City Manila, SM City Cebu, SM City Iloilo, SM Pampanga

JAN 20-24, 10am-6pm
SM Southmall

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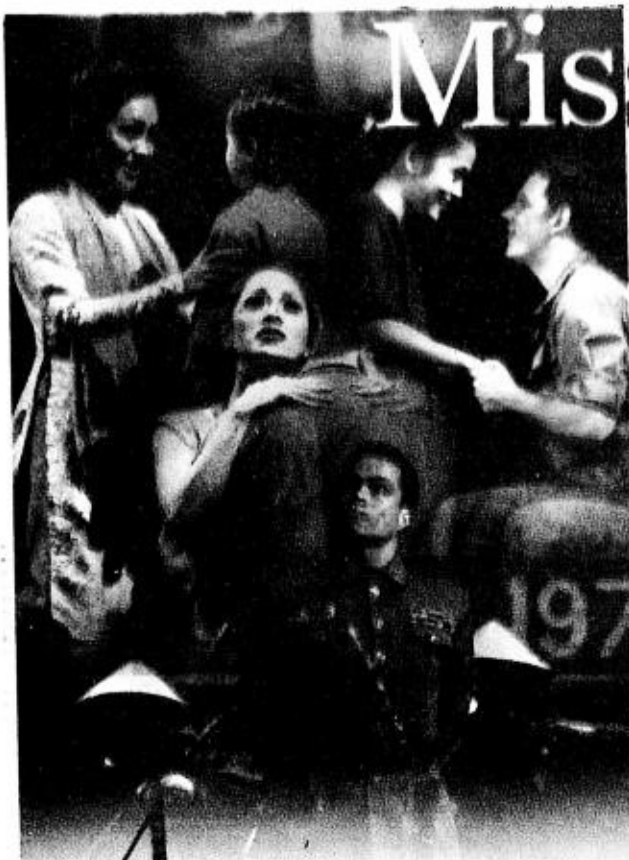


LEE KUM KEE



SM CITY NORTH EDSA ▲ SM CENTERPOINT ▲ SM MEGAMALL ▲ SM SOUTHMALL ▲ SM CITY BACOOR
SM CITY FAIRVIEW ▲ SM CITY MANILA ▲ SM CITY ILOILO ▲ SM CITY CEBU ▲ SM CITY PAMPANGA

Miss Saigon's New Cast Shines



"I've seen many Broadway plays abroad and watching one in the Philippines with Filipino actors and Filipino staff makes you proud to be Filipino. I feel that we are at par or even better vis-à-vis the international cast. It really boils down to a matter of budget that will allow actors to be contracted for a long period of time, and to rehearse and focus exclusively on their roles. Special mention should be given to Menchu Lauchengco-Yulo's performance. The night I watched, she stole the show. Cez Campos as Kim showed a varied range of emotions, and ditto for Jon Jon Briones as The Engineer."



RICKY DAVAO
Actor

"As Kim, Cez Campos is a marvelous revelation. Her voice is uncannily similar to Lea's minus the vibrato; she emotes as remarkably as she sings. When she hugs and holds the lifeless Thuy, she creates a scene so riveting, so gripping, it is beyond description. Menchu Lauchengco-Yulo, Chris' wife Ellen, matches the demands of her role. Menchu and Scott Anson equally portrayed their roles with utter conviction. Arvin Quirante performs exceedingly well as Thuy; so does Jon Jon Briones, his part is crucial to the play — indeed, he weaves and holds the story together. The bar scenes of gyrating, scantily clad prostitutes are definitely too suggestive. But I shall never tire of 'The American Dream'."

For first-timers, the spectacular sets will elicit excitement, chiefly the unprecedentedly awesome helicopter, with the mad rush of soldiers heightening the misery of the Vietnamese civilians who

are left behind. Ultimately, beyond the dazzling entertainment, it is the tragedy of war that Miss Saigon etches in the mind."

ROSALINDA L. OROSA
Performing Arts Critic



"I have seen Miss Saigon in New York before, but I really enjoyed the show here. It was such a pleasure to watch the same show without any celebrity to distract me from the story itself. I liked the performance of the new cast, especially Cez Campos and Menchu Lauchengco-Yulo."

ALICE ORLEANS
Group Communications Manager
Avon Cosmetics, Inc.



Although the country's pride, Lea Salonga, has left for New York to close the Broadway production of Miss Saigon, the Manila production continues to shine with its new actors playing the lead roles. They may be fresh faces to the Filipino audience, but their talent and skill make watching Miss Saigon still a truly entertaining and moving experience. They will be playing until the season's end on March 31, 2001.

Cezarah Campos is the new lead Kim, with Ima Castro doing the role at certain performances. The role of Chris is now played by Scott Anson, while the Engineer is still being played by superb actors Leo Valdez and Jon Jon Briones. Christine Sambeli-Marquez is the new Gigi and Arvin Quirante continues to play Thuy.

Menchu Lauchengco-Yulo steps in as Ellen walk-in cover, with Lisa Capps in the principal role. This is probably the first time an Asian has tackled the Caucasian role, and it has proven that Filipinos have what it takes to portray any role in international theater, even a role of a different race.

Some of those who have caught the show early this year have nothing but praises for the new group:

"I really felt that this new combination with Cez Campos was the most effective I have ever seen. In fact, the thing I loved about it was the way the whole team worked. For the first time, I was really able to concentrate on the story. I was very moved."

This is the first time I have seen the role of Chris done the way it should be done — boyish. I have seen Cez Campos in West End. It is only with Scott Anson that I saw a boy who matches the youth of Kim. The Kims have never had partners that matched their youth. With Cez and Scott, the affair between Kim and Chris' was a lot more endearing and sympathetic.

As for the role of Ellen (Menchu Lauchengco-Yulo), this is the first time I had ever felt somebody have compassion for the other characters and not just for herself. I have seen many Ellens, but I can only remember so little, like their beautiful voices and beautiful faces. If you think about it, Ellen is the world's most thankless role, especially when you do it in the Philippines because you are breaking the heart of not just a young Vietnamese girl, but also a Filipina. I always thought that Ellen should be attacked with more compassion instead of self-pity and confusion.

I always remember the technical prowess of actors. But this is the first time I actually remember the story and the power of the entire situation. I would like people to see the magic of this group working together. Finally, after 10 years of Miss Saigon, I am seeing ensemble lead acting. It is in the way they attack their roles. So if you ask me, do their interpretations of their roles jive?

For the first time, to me it does."



FREDDIE SANTOS
Stage and TV Director
Best Director, 2000 Aliw Awards

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— Manila Bulletin

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Thank you, Erap

(From page D1)

ate.

Being a role model. You're exactly what I don't want to be when I get older.

Helping the crime rates go down. Who would have had time to commit misdemeanors when everyone—even criminals—was watching your impeachment trial?

Snapping me back to reality. For an ex-political science major, I haven't particularly been interested in politics for a long time. But your antics have kept my eyes and ears glued to the news.

Giving us the perfect illustration of the value of patience. If you waited until after the second envelope had been opened before you decided to pay for the final ballots, things might have taken a different route.

Reminding us that respect is earned, not demanded.

Paying all those people who attended the pro-Erap rally 500 bucks and for feeding them fried chicken. At least, in that small way, you were able to help a handful of people.

Being an instrument in showing people just how powerful technology can be. This time, texting worked for our side, quite a change from the time it was used to send messages about the Pope's demise.

Giving the Filipino intelligence a chance to shine. Okay, so it wasn't your

intelligence. You don't expect to have everything, do you? The billions and the mansions will probably make up for the lack of brain-power.

Getting us fantastic mileage on CNN. Heck, we even took the lime-light away from Bush's inauguration.

Helping expand my vocabulary of curse words. The bad news? I used them all on you.

Strengthening my feminist views. You further destroyed my already wavering belief in marriage and men.

The exercise. I walked all the way from Makati to Edsa, my friends and I chanting and screaming for your resignation the whole time. I must have burned more calories in the last few days than I have in the past few months.

The comic relief. We were disgusted. Now we are laughing our heads off.

Making me feel like a real Filipino. Every single time I shouted for your resignation, I felt love for my country—deep down, in the pits of my soul.

Confirming that I was right when I didn't throw out my black shirts. I put them to good use these past days.

Helping me appreciate my father. I am so glad I'm not your daughter. I probably wouldn't have lived to be a teenager.

Giving the youth a chance to prove to the older generation that we aren't as apathetic as they think. Seeing that most people at Edsa—and most people who marched to Mendiola—were people from our age group fills us with pride. There may be hope for our beloved country yet.

Renewing my love for my country.

Helping us appreciate the good in this world. For it is with the existence of evil that we realize the value of the brighter side of things.

Thank you, Erap.
Because of you...

I have deepened my ties with my grandma. The events that happened in the past week have bothered me so much that I had to sleep beside her, with the television



ILLUSTRATIONS: STEPH BRAYO

on the whole time.

I have started a looong list of never-to-vote-for politicians. The 11 boars from the Senate top the list. I shall continue to add to them as I keep track of everything that's happening in our country.

I have renewed ties with old friends. People who have long disappeared have started texting me again—mostly jokes about you and your idiocy. I'm sure you're used to that by now.

I have realized just how nasty I can be. Now I know that if anyone does any of the people I love wrong, I can fight for them with my life.

I am now able to discern the sincerity of politicians. I'll be voting real soon. Now I know which ones to choose. Believe me, they're not on your side.

People have realized that clichés are not just that. "Greed does not pay," "Good will triumph over evil," "The truth shall prevail"—these aren't just lines. Your case has proven them true.

I discovered how shameless people can be. In our own and more graphic language, *nakita ko ang sukdulan ng kakapalan ng tao*.

People have now discovered the importance of using their heads when voting. We don't want an Erap Jr. to be given that much power again. No way.



Read this before you diet or exercise

I WAS exercising three hours a day (half aerobics and half weights and spot reducing) five days a week and stayed away from beef. I would lose 2-3 pounds a week and gain 6 pounds over the weekend. The number just kept on increasing. The people at the gym were wondering what was up while the trainers were accusing me of pigging out or sneaking midnight snacks. How else, they claimed, would I gain that much with all the exercise I had been doing for the past seven months? It was my mom who finally convinced me to go to the endocrinologist a.k.a. diet doctor. I resisted Mom's pleadings at first, stating there was nothing wrong with me and I could do this myself. Couldn't people see I was trying? Did they have to put me down all the time?

I weighed in at the doctor's office at 122 pounds at 5'10" and a small-framed bone structure. You could imagine what I would have weighed without all that exercise and food control. Recalling all the times I went to bed hungry for the sake of self-control, people I knew looking at my basket in the grocery store and shaking their heads, and being accused of gorging when out of sight, I wanted to burst into tears.

The doctor asked me a couple of questions. Was I always constipated? Did I miss my period for months? Low tolerance for cold, how long did I sleep at night, and was I always tired? It was amazing that she knew all the questions to ask that was out of the ordinary in my habits.

There were times that I'd miss my period for 20 days to three months and I would easily gain 10 pounds. I often had chills and never did a "No. 2" every day. In fact, I could not go for a whole week. The sleeping hours were the shocker; I would sleep for 9-13 hours every night.

The doctor told me she was almost sure I had a condition called hypothyroid, the slowing down of the metabolism causing uncontrollable weight gain. In fact, other people with hypothyroid just checked two of three of the symptoms listed while I checked all.

To confirm her suspicions, she drew some blood and asked me to gather urine samples with some instructions and to submit it to her for testing. Sure enough, when I came for my reading, I tested positive. My salt, cholesterol and triglycerides were off the charts as my system was not expelling these undesirables out of my body but storing them in.

MAKEOVER 911

Kinny Salas



The doctor gave me a special diet program and wrote out medication that cost me an arm and a leg. Friends who took this medicine as diet prescription by the same doctor told me, I would lose at least 20 pounds in two months. I lost 8. When I complained to the doctor, she told me: "They don't have hypothyroid!" It took me 13 months to drop 18 pounds and there were moments the weight would not budge.

I begged her if I could increase my exercise time, but she told me that for the first month, I should start with 20 minutes aerobic activity at least five days a week, and increase it by 10 minutes every month until I can complete an hour. Her reason being, combined with the medication, it could strain my heart if I plunged into my manic exercise routine. At times, out of defiance, I would go 40 minutes instead of the prescribed 20, and would literally hear my heartbeat; my hand would also shake while holding certain objects.

I went for regular monthly checkups that were cut down to every two months, then eventually every six. I am off the medication for now and so far have lost 6 more pounds on my own. My record low was 94 pounds. I find myself creeping back up on the scale and have a feeling I have to go back to the good doctor soon.

The point of this article is to help others who are going through the same thing. If you recognize any similar symptoms, please, do not be afraid to visit an endocrinologist. We do not take these warnings seriously but I am confirming it now. It is necessary to consult your doctor before starting any fad diet or rigorous exercise program.

For questions, or products you want to road-test, write to Makeover 911, PDI Lifestyle, or fax 897-4805



STEPH BRAYO

We saw just how tight Filipino families can be. I can't believe how your family has stuck with you through all the troubles you got them into. (Let's not even think about the second, third, fourth families. This whole thing is complicated enough as it is.)

I have realized that not all politicians are jerks—although most of you are.

I have cried for my country and found out I'm not so numb after all.

I have emerged from this battle prouder of our heritage, prouder to be called Filipino.

I want to thank you, Erap, for waking the Filipino people up, for bringing us together once again, for stirring the nationalists in us. Of course, you didn't have to amass billions to be able to achieve that, but I guess that was your way of doing it. That's all right. We'll see you in court.

Finally, thanks for leaving. It took much time, but at least you're gone now. We can start rebuilding our nation, after we get rid of the mess you left behind.

E-mail the author at pammy@exchange.ph

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The INQUIRER's JOB MARKET will hold a "mini" Job Fair on January 24 to 26, 2001, 1 to 8 p.m. at Level 3, Glorietta III, Ayala Center, Makati City (near Racks). Be part of this recruitment special and be included in our Resumé Reserve categorized database.

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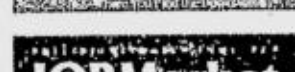
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AYALA CINEMAS
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CREATIVE placards and streamers, many of which were done by various student organizations, adorn Edsa during People Power 2.



STUDENTS of the University of Asia and the Pacific walk out of their classrooms to be able to join the rally and have their shouts of protest heard.

The youth is part of the solution, not part of the problem; as last week's revolution proved

The other name for People Power 2 is Youth Power

BY MICHAEL DIZON GARCIA

IN THE RECENT People Power 2, the youth certainly have proven themselves. Before, there were many misconceptions about young people. They were believed to be moral degenerates. Considering the high incidence of drug dependence among the youth, there was uncertainty about the future of the country. However, these notions now have to be reassessed.

One of the most common misconceptions about the youth is that they are contemptuous of authority. However, the episode shows that they are such only before authorities that run roughshod over the laws they are supposed to enforce. Otherwise, young people are vigilant especially when there is obstruction of justice or suppression of the truth, as when the 11 senator-judges refused to have the second envelope opened.

Young people are also often stereotyped as rebellious. However, I would say they are merely dedicated to effect social changes.

Some may claim the youth are impulsive. But being impulsive is to plunge into something without thinking first of the possible consequences. This was not the case on Jan. 16 when the youth decided to join the noise barrage and gather on Edsa after the infamous Senate vote. The youth did so out of a sense of urgency.

Some say the youth are stubborn. Not quite. The word is tenacious. That characterized the vigil they held in Edsa. They allowed no compromises; what is wrong is wrong and whoever committed wrong must be brought to justice. They continued their demonstrations to prove that point.

Finally, some say the youth are vulgar. But vulgarity is the absence of decency in conduct or in speech. The youth are not guilty of this. What they are guilty of is expressing well-founded opinions in a creative manner, sometimes too straightforwardly as to hurt and to sting. Recall the placards, streamers and other protest paraphernalia on Edsa last week. Didn't we laugh at the element of truth contained in such statements as "Oreta: Dancing Queen" and "Jaworski: fouled out, you're ejected from the court"?

Of course, despite their tremendous potentials, young citizens have their shortcomings. But young as they are, they make a stand on their own. Their position may not always be the best one, but at least, they have one and fight for it. The beauty of it all is that their minds and hearts are not hardened yet, like somebody who has very much disappointed the nation. As such, they have the capacity and the humility to listen and learn from the wisdom of the people, whose welfare dictates what is best for the country. Perhaps, it is time that people realize that many of the misconceptions about the youth are precisely their strengths. Perhaps with the ardent and brave fight the youth put up during People Power 2, most people now have a better—and brighter—idea of where the future is headed.

Celebrate Valentine with The Corrs

IF you've been racking your brains trying to think of ways to spend your Valentine's, well, fret no more.

Irish family sensation and international music superstars The Corrs are coming to paint the town red on Feb. 16 as they perform live at the Araneta Coliseum fronted by Warner Music Philippines' best boy band bet, Plus One. The most-awaited and most-talked about show is the answer to their Filipino fans' nonstop clamor for another chance at seeing them perform their memorable hits like "What Can I Do," "Dreams," "Runaway," "Radio," and even their most recent chart-toppers like "Breathless," "Irresistible" and "Give Me a Reason."

You may even get a chance to spend your Valentine's with the Corrs. Yup, you can spend the season of love with your idols simply by buying their latest album "In Blue," now available in special-edition CDs and cassettes from any record bar nearest you. The special-edition "In Blue" features previously unreleased tracks like "Love in The Milky Way" and "Looking in The Eyes of Love," as well as new versions of "No More Cry," "At Your Side," "Haste to the Wedding" and "So Young." Upon purchase of a CD or cassette, you will be presented with a raffle coupon. Fill out and drop in designated drop boxes located in all participating record bars. Winners will get two tickets each. But if you're really lucky, not only will you get free tickets, you also get to arrive at the concert in a limousine, meet The Corrs backstage and even get free dinner. Now is that a hot deal or is that a hot deal? Can you think of a better way to spend your Valentine's?

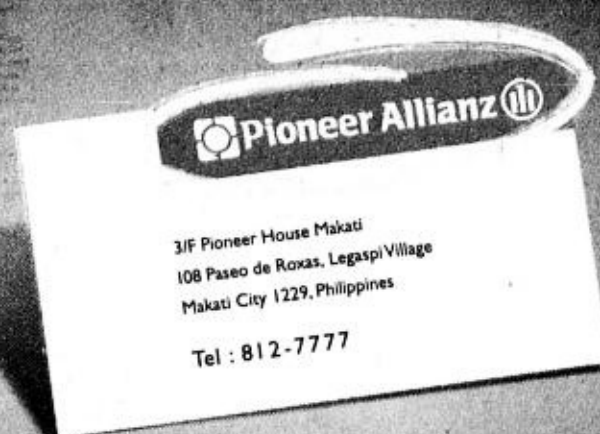
So what are you waiting for guys? Drop by your favorite record bars and grab your copies of the special-edition "In Blue" album by The Corrs. Now who says Valentine's Day will be blue?

This concert is co-presented by 2bU!

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